

EXHIBIT 3
DATE 4/7/15
SB 309

Senate Bill 309
April 7, 2015
Presented by Alan Charles
House Fish, Wildlife and Parks Committee

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, for the record my name is Alan Charles and I am a bureau chief with the Wildlife Division for Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP). I stand in support of SB 309.

SB 309 would expand the scope of the current Unlocking State Lands program to add federal lands administered by the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management. This program is jointly administered by FWP and the Department of Revenue. Under the current program, landowners who provide access across their private land to state land are eligible for a \$500 state tax credit for each qualified access, up to a maximum of a \$2,000 credit annually. To date, two landowners have enrolled a total of four parcels in the program.

The changes proposed by Senator Hinkle in HB 309 are a logical extension of the existing program, and create the opportunity for additional access to public land.

If you have questions about how the program is administered, as the program manager, I will try to answer those questions for you.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today and FWP requests a "Do Pass" on SB 309.

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