EXHIBIT #2
DATE Jan 19th 2015
HB 199

HB Bill 199
January 19, 2015
Presented by Jim Kropp
House Transportation Committee

Mr. Chairman and committee members, I Jim Kropp, Administrator for the Law Enforcement Division of Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP). I am here today on behalf of the Director in support of House Bill 199.

On October 22, 2014 the United States Coast Guard removed references to type codes (Type I, II, III, IV and V) for life jackets or PFD's (personal floatation devices) from their regulations. HB 199 simply removes the type codes and adds Coast Guard language that the PFD must "...be in good and serviceable condition and used in accordance with any requirements on the label" consistent with Coast Guard regulations. In 1959, original language was passed requiring PFD's for skiers towed by a boat. At that time, water skiing was probably the only activity where a person was towed upon the water. Since then, numerous kinds of towed riding devices have been developed and we anticipate more in the future. As such, the revision of the language of this statute is appropriate.

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Enforcement contacted over 18,000 boats and issued just over 450 citations and over 2300 warnings for boating violations in 2014.

HB 199 makes it clear that anyone pulled behind a boat on any kind of device must wear a PFD.

FWP urges your support of HB 199, and we are available for questions.