SENATE FINANCE & CLAIMS
Exhibit 2
Date 3-27-15
Bill No. SB 345

Dear Member of the Senate Fish & Game Committee:

My name is Gage Sliter and I am a Montana Hunter. I began going hunting with my dad when I was 4 years old. We hunt waterfowl, turkey, deer and elk.

We hunt on the farm my great grandfather bought on the Flathead River from blinds and tree stands. Every tree stand my dad puts up is a "buddy" stand, so I can go with him.

We built a rifle range where my dad sights in his guns. It's fun because I can shoot too. I started with a 22 and 17. Now I shoot my sisters 7mm-08 and my dad's 308. In the winter we have competitions shooting icicles at long range. My best shot was over 500 yards!

When I was nine I proved to my dad that I was ready to go on his annual deer and elk hunt on the Rocky Mountain Front. It is my favorite trip ever. This past season was my second time. My dad, uncles and cousins all go for a week. We hunt deer and elk. It's fun because we get to hike in the mountains and see lots of cool stuff. Last year, I was the first to spot a bull elk that snuck in to where we were sitting. We couldn't shoot because it requires a special tag, but it was still cool to see. My dad got a deer this year and I helped clean it and drag it out. We always get steaks and jerky and pepper sticks. I love to eat deer!

Last year my dad didn't shoot anything. We saw lots of deer but they were too far away. I learned that shooting deer isn't the same as targets or icicles and we have to make ethical shots. My dad teaches me a lot about gun safety too.

My favorite channel is the outdoor channel and I watch lots of hunting and fishing shows.

My dad told me my cousin Jackson and I might be able to hunt this year. I turn 11 in July and Jackson is 10. My dad says I've already hunted more than most adults. I love hunting with my dad and I know I'm ready to shoot a deer. I can shoot my dad's 308.

Thank you for changing the rules so I can shoot a deer this year.

Gage Sliter