

SENATE NATURAL RESOURCES

Exhibit No. 4

Date 2/12/15

Bill No. SB 261

Senate Natural Resources
Honorable Chas Vincent, Chairman
Senator Rick Ripley, Vice-Chairman
64th Montana State Legislature
Capital Building
Helena, Montana

February 11, 2015

RE: Senate Bill 261; LC 572
Sponsor: Senator Hamlett
Short Title: Montana Sage-grouse stewardship act

Mr. Chairman and Committee Members:

The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes ("CSKT") support the Montana Sage-grouse stewardship act. The CSKT endorses this effort to maintain and support our Tribes' and State's native species. The preservation and restoration of such an important and iconic Montana bird, such as the Greater Sage-grouse, cannot be overstated.

Developing conservation measures to maintain, restore, expand and enhance sage grouse habitats will simply help with population decline and allow for other activities to occur.

Under the CSKT hunting laws, important species like the sharp tail grouse and sage grouse are protected from hunting unless provided for under the American Indian Religious Freedom Act. Sage grouse are found within our aboriginal territory and are historically and culturally tied to the CSKT.

We ask that you support SB 261 with a yes vote. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Shane Morigeau

Shane Morigeau
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