

12345 Gooch Hill Rd  
Gallatin Gateway, MT 59730

August 14, 2014

Environmental Quality Council  
Legislative Environmental Policy Office  
Attn: Senator John C Brenden, Chairman  
State Capitol Building  
1301 E 6<sup>th</sup> Ave., Room 171  
P O Box 201704  
Helena, MT 59620-1704

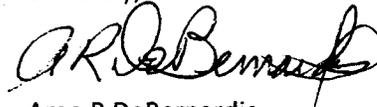
Dear Senator Brenden:

Subj: Fish Wildlife and Parks Firearms and Training

On August 11 and 12, 2014 Fish Wildlife and Parks (FWP) conducted live firearm training in Logan, Montana on the Manhattan Wildlife Association rifle range. As a member of this privately owned range, I am writing to you about the type of training and firearms used during this training. It is my understanding the FWP instructors from around the state attended this training put on by a private instructor. I assume it was being conducted to train the FWP firearms instructors. The type of training was tactical along the lines of Special Weapons and Tactics with weapons more suited to law enforcement than FWP's needs. The firearms used were new out of the box 308 caliber semiautomatic with scoped optics. This particular firearm is more typically used by military forces and some civilian law enforcement agencies. I question the requirement of the agencies need for this type of rifle. I cannot envision a situation where a force of FWP officers will be required to confront hunters or fisherman in a tactical situation. Anything outside of hunting or fishing violations should be redirected to local law enforcement. It is my understanding this agency's mission statement does not include any responsibility for police support or civil law enforcement outside of game management. If FWP's mission has changed, then the people of Montana need to know.

Expenditure of funds on unnecessary armament by FWP using my sportsman licensing fees is totally outside the mission of this agency. I do not support this type of activity by the agency which is supposed to manage Montana wildlife. I can assure you, when more sportsmen in this state become aware of FWP expending funds on unnecessary equipment there will be little or no support for any licensing fee increase of any form.

Sincerely,



Amo R DeBernardis

cc: Representative Kerry White  
Senator Jim Keane

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ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
COUNCIL. 2013-14

September 10, 2014 Exhibit No. 20