SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 18

INTRODUCED BY PEASE

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA URGING CONGRESS TO ALLOCATE A PORTION OF FEDERAL EXCISE TAXES FOR TRIBAL WILDLIFE AND FISH MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS.

WHEREAS, tribal and nontribal recreationists of Montana, whether on or off of reservations, pay federal excise taxes on sporting goods; and

WHEREAS, a portion of these federal excise taxes is apportioned to the state to be administered by the Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks and is earmarked for purposes of wildlife and fish management in Montana; and

WHEREAS, the distribution of funds from the total apportionment is based on a formulated percentage, factoring in licensed resource users, demographic population, land base, and water area, including tribal populations, lands, and waters, yet none of these funds are currently apportioned to tribal governments; and

WHEREAS, the various tribal governments of Montana also maintain programs of wildlife and fish management that benefit the state wildlife and fish resources, and wildlife and fish management on reservations could be enhanced if Montana tribes were to receive part of the tax revenue for tribal management programs; and

WHEREAS, as a matter of equity, Montana tribes are entitled to a portion of the federal excise tax revenue on sporting goods for tribal wildlife and fish management programs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

(1) That the United States Congress pass legislation that would allocate a portion of federal excise taxes for tribal wildlife and fish management programs in the same manner that the taxes are allocated to the states.

(2) That the Secretary of State send copies of this resolution to the Montana Congressional Delegation, the Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior, and to each tribal government located on the seven Montana reservations and to the Little Shell Chippewa tribe.

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