



A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA URGING THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT TO DENY THE BISON GRAZING PROPOSAL BY THE AMERICAN PRAIRIE RESERVE.

WHEREAS, the American Prairie Reserve (APR) controls private properties tied to 18 Bureau of Land Management (BLM) grazing allotments in Fergus, Petroleum, Phillips, and Valley counties; and

WHEREAS, the APR has requested that the BLM fundamentally shift long-established grazing practices on the 18 BLM allotments, which encompass 250,000 acres of public property; and

WHEREAS, APR has petitioned to change the allotments from seasonal or rotational grazing to year-round grazing and remove the interior fencing on those allotments; and

WHEREAS, the APR proposes to allow the year-round, continuous grazing of public land by bison, which would impact the future grazing viability of the allotments; and

WHEREAS, the existing BLM designation for managed grazing is what science dictates the rangeland can support; and

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of the BLM to ensure the future vitality of these public parcels is protected; and

WHEREAS, the removal of interior fences will eliminate the ability of BLM to control the access of bison to certain parcels to shorten grazing permits in response to drought or fire to protect the rangeland.

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

(1) That it is essential for the preservation of the future viability of Montana's rangeland that the BLM deny the petition by the APR to alter grazing permits on the 18 allotments under the control of APR.

(2) That the denial of the proposed APR grazing permit change is critical for the health of Montana's livestock and wildlife.

(3) That private landowners and communities should not bear the cost of damages incurred by the lack

of integrated bison management in the APR's grazing proposal.

(4) That the denial of the APR grazing proposal would protect Montana farmers, ranchers, and communities.

(5) That the BLM should deny the APR bison grazing proposal.

(6) That the Secretary of State send a copy of this resolution to the United States Congress, the Department of the Interior, and the Bureau of Land Management.

- END -

I hereby certify that the within joint resolution,
HJ 0028, originated in the House.

Speaker of the House

Signed this _____ day
of _____, 2019.

Chief Clerk of the House

President of the Senate

Signed this _____ day
of _____, 2019.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 28

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