



May 22, 2023

Dear Rep. Durham and Rep. Marler,

During the 63<sup>rd</sup> Montana Legislature, you co-sponsored a bill to change hunter and bowhunter education requirements. I appreciate your interest and passion for these programs and know that we have a shared goal of ensuring the safest and most ethical hunters graduate from these programs. Even though House Bill 243 did not pass, we are moving forward with the intent of the original bill.

Starting Jan. 1, 2024, students in our hunter and bowhunter education classes will have to pass a field day to complete the course and receive a certificate. This requirement will include online students as well.

Starting this June, a 23-member advisory committee will begin meeting to help our staff identify improvements to our course, develop a plan for implementing field days for online students, and look at new strategies for recruiting volunteer instructors. I've tasked this committee to develop actionable recommendations, and I'll direct my education staff to implement them as quickly and efficiently as possible.

The new field day requirement for online students and the program improvements that will result from the advisory committee's work demonstrate my commitment to our shared goal of ensuring safe and ethical hunters in Montana. As we move forward, I'll continue to welcome your input and questions. As you both know, my door is always open.

Thank you for your service to Montanans and your passion for hunter education.

Sincerely,

Dustin Temple