

MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK AND IRRIGATION  
MONTANA STATE SENATE

February 28, 1983

The Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Committee meeting was called to order on the above date, in Room 415 of the State Capitol Building, at 1:00 p.m., by Chairman Galt.

ROLL CALL: Senators Lee and Conover excused, Senator Graham absent. All other members present.

HOUSE BILL 85: Representative Verner Bertelsen, HD 27, explained that HB 85 is an outgrowth of an exchange that took place between the Department of Livestock and Department of Agriculture last biennium. They have transferred funds from the Department of Livestock to the Department of Agriculture for the program. After trying this for two years, it is more appropriate to transfer the rodent control program to the Department of Agriculture. There is a minor change in the bill to include vertebrate species harmful to agriculture. The Department of Agriculture will control only species injurious or harmful to agriculture or business.

Les Graham, Department of Livestock, told the committee this is a department requested bill from the Department of Livestock. He pointed out that it would not include the rabies or predator programs. There will be no money transfer because the program has already been with the Department of Agriculture. The Department of Livestock has cut 2 FTE's from their payroll.

Ralph Peck, Department of Agriculture, gave testimony on behalf of Keith Kelly, Director of the Department of Agriculture. Exhibit #1.

Pat Underwood, Montana Farm Bureau was in favor of the bill. Exhibit #2.

Jo Brunner, WIFE, supported the bill. Exhibit #3.

The hearing closed on House Bill 85.

HOUSE BILL 515: Representative Ray Jensen, House District 25, introduced the bill, an act to authorize the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks to compensate property owners for damage done by grizzly bears. On page 1, line 18, it says it is the specific policy of the State of Montana to protect, conserve and manage grizzly bears as rare species and he asked the committee to take note of page 2, line 11, where it says the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks has power to spend for protecting, preservation, etc., of these animals. He said the purpose of the act was pointed out in line 19 on page 2.

David Rockwell, Legislative Assistant in the House, asked committee approval to testify for the bill. Thus given, he explained that he had helped work on the bill and lives in grizzly bear country where neighbors have had to kill the bears. He said there is a statute in Montana law that a property owner can kill a bear if it is destroying his property. This bill provides a responsible way to compen-

sate property owners for damage. He handed out a flow chart, Exhibit #4. Right now you had a couple choices. You can kill a bear or call the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks to come and take care of the bear. Most damages occur at night and going after a bear then is a situation most land owners would like to avoid. Mr. Rockwell gave the committee a memo from Dick Christy who is now being investigated for killing a grizzly bear going through his sheep and destroying his property. He is now involved in a civil action because of killing the bear. Exhibit #5.

Bob Gilbert, Montana Wool Growers and Stock Growers, explained Mr. Christy's problem in detail, Exhibit #6. He said his organization saw one problem in the bill and pointed out page 6, line 21 where it says he would no longer be compensated as they felt the person should be able to do something when he sees his property being destroyed.

Pat Underwood, Montana Farm Bureau, agreed with the Wool Grower's testimony and the point brought up by Mr. Gilbert, Exhibit #7.

Janet Ellis, Montana Audubon Council, supported the bill on behalf of the 2400 members located throughout the state. Exhibit #8.

Also attached is testimony from Cindy Osmundson, Exhibit #9 and Joseph Jessepe, Exhibit #10.

In closing, Representative Jensen said the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks has funds in the general fund to pay for this compensation. Many times the grizzly grazes in the pasture with cattle and never bothers them, so he did not see this as an aggressive problem. A pamphlet will be distributed to the people in the area explaining the program. He had no objections to the Wool Grower's amendment striking "attempts to kill or wound, by any method." He thought this may clear the bill up.

Senator Aklestad asked, other than the pamphlet, what the bill did except compensate. He was told that anyone who wants to can enter into this agreement and they will come up with measures that have to be taken in an area to minimize the damage.

Senator Aklestad saw a total amount available but didn't see an amount in the fiscal note. Representative Jensen replied that the bill doesn't address that. The committee the Department has appointed will address that. Under the provisions of the bill, the claim is initiated by the land owner. He contacts the Department; the Department sends someone out. They walk around the place and see if something needs to be cleaned up or what the problem is - like garbage dumps, etc.. If the Department points out something the land owner doesn't agree with, the appointed committee comes in. This is an arbitration board of three people. If they can agree, the land owner signs a contract with the Department. In a year the average damage by the grizzly is less than \$10,000, but they put a lid of \$20,000 on it.

Senator Lane asked what if it was a black or brown bear, the bill

doesn't cover these bears. Representative Jensen said usually the Department can distinguish between damage of black or brown bears and the grizzly by tracks, hair on barbed wire fences, etc..

Senator Lane asked if the black or brown bears got into beehives, garbage cans, etc. He was told that it does happen but not as often as with the grizzly.

Senator Kolstad remarked that the bill just addresses property damage, there is no compensation if it eats your kid.

Mr. Rockwell answered that there would be some healthy law suits if you included people.

Senator Aklestad inquired as to how many sheep are killed by the grizzly and how many by coyotes. Mr. Gilbert said they have 5 or 6 complaints a year where bears are acting as predators. He figured 90% to 10% or 95% to 5%. They have really never kept track as they must work with Fish and Wildlife.

Mr. Rockwell thought it was about 2-5% caused by the grizzly. The rest is coyote damage.

Doctor Jonkel, University of Montana Wildlife Biology, was asked to speak on the bill. He supported the bill and said the grizzly is not a killer. They feed for 6 months out of every year and only gain weight for 3 months. They have a nutrition problem during certain years and during that time they are literally starving so they have to try harder. The bear population was not increasing all that fast, but because of the damage during these periods, it looked worse. He said people who didn't get some kind of compensation get angry. He felt that, if Montana didn't try to improve things, the federal government would come in and there would be much worse problems.

Senator Galt asked where they were going to get the \$200,000 and whether they ever considered putting the bill in the appropriations committee.

Representative Jensen said they already have people in the field and he didn't think it will take that much management. He didn't understand where they came up with this much money. The Fish and Game money came from the general fund and they have the prerogative to spend the money for this.

Senator Boylan commented that he had worked on the Fish and Game budget and there was a shortage of money in their budget. He wondered if this came out of general fund or could they get into earmarked revenue.

Mr. Rockwell answered that some funding came from the confiscated game fund.

Senator Ochsner questioned how many FTE's at \$166 a day plus travel this would involve. He received no answer.

Hearing closed on HB 515.

Senator Galt asked the committee to review HB 159 which had been heard on February 14. He suggested the committee consider it along with HB 85 as they are related bills.

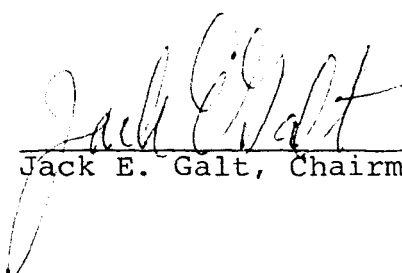
Representative Bertelsen explained that HB 159 was set up so the county can have a rodent control district. You can set up a county rodent district and still have a local district. There are no county districts now.

DISPOSITION OF HOUSE BILL 85: Senator Ochsner moved HB 85 BE CONCURRED IN. Motion carried. Senator Ochsner will carry the bill on the floor.

DISPOSITION OF HOUSE BILL 159: Senator Ochsner moved HB 159 BE CONCURRED IN. Motion carried. Senator Ochsner will carry the bill on the floor.

DISPOSITION OF HOUSE BILL 432: Senator Lane moved HB 432 BE CONCURRED IN. Motion carried. Senator Lane will carry the bill on the floor.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jack E. Galt, Chairman

ROLL CALL

AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

48th LEGISLATIVE SESSION - - 19 83

Date 7/28/83

NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
GALT, Jack E.	✓		
KOLSTAD, Allen C.	✓		
AKLESTAD, Gary C.	✓		
OCHSNER, J. Donald	✓		
GRAHAM, Carroll			
BOYLAN, Paul F.	✓		
CONOVER, Max			✓
LANE, Leo	✓		
LEE, Gary			

Each day attach to minutes.

DATE:

COMMITTEE ON

## VISITORS' REGISTER

NAME	REPRESENTING	BILL #	Check One	
			Support	Oppose
Les Graham	Dept D Lussick	H885	✓	
Roger A. Myer	Dept of Regia	HB95	✓	
	Department of the Interior	HB85	✓	
David Rockwell	Myself	HB515	✓	
J. Kanner		HB7	✓	
Bob Greenwald	MT Audubon Council	HB515		
Marc Tegen	UM Wildlife Biology	HB515	✓	
John G. Smith	Self	HB515	✓	
Janet Ellis	MT Audubon Council	HB 515	✓	
Audrey Osmond	UM Wildlife Biology	HB515	✓	
Charles Jankel	UM Wildlife Biology	HB515	✓	
- Joseph C. Jossepe	Self	HB515	✓	

(Please leave prepared statement with Secretary)

Montana Department of Agriculture  
House Bill 85VERTEBRATE PEST LEGISLATION  
81-1-401 thru 81-1-403

The proposed bill transferring rodent functions to the Department of Agriculture from the Department of Livestock combines the activities in this area into one Department. Rodent populations are not too particular; they are found in grazing (range and pasture) land as well as in a variety of cropland situations. Since most producers are not strictly livestock producers or crop producers, but a combination of both, it was felt that it would be better to have one agency responsible rather than having two whose activities could easily overlap or be duplicated. The Board of Livestock contracted with the Department of Agriculture 2½ years ago to perform the duties and responsibilities under the Rodent Act. All concerned feel it has worked well and hence the proposed legislation to officially transfer these functions to Agriculture.

Reason for Renaming:

Most federal legislation and most of the surrounding state's legislation is written in terms of vertebrate pest species rather than rodent species. If the Department is to enter into cooperative agreements with these agencies it would be much easier to do so on an equal and comparative basis.

Troublesome and nuisance pests such as jackrabbits, skunks, raccoons, bats and several bird species are not rodents and are not included under the present rodent act. They are vertebrates and in some areas of Montana become pests and should be included under the vertebrate pest designation as proposed in the bill.

Why Include These Species?

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has in the past provided assistance to people having problems with these nuisance pests, but has virtually gotten out of the business. So the question is: "Who do producers or the general public go to if they are having problems with these species?" The answer is: "In Montana, no one, because no one has the authority to help them." If this bill is passed, the Department of Agriculture would have the authority, and it already has the staff and knowledge in these areas.

Bats can be a nuisance and are known disease and rabies carriers. The Department typically gets 20 to 25 calls a year on bat problems. There are no pesticides available for use by the general public for bat control. The compound that is available

is available to government personnel and "pest control operator's" only.

The bird species named are problems for producers in sunflower fields, barnyards and feed lots. Producers have had problems these past few years with starlings eating leaf cutter bees in certified alfalfa seed fields. The control chemicals, once again, are available only to government agencies. The Department, through the authority in this bill, could provide assistance to the producers experiencing problems.

Starlings, house sparrows and pigeons can also be nuisances in and around public buildings in urban areas. The Department would also provide assistance in these areas through this bill.

There were several changes recommended by Fish, Wildlife and Parks. These amendments have been incorporated into the bill. Specifically, Section 2 (page 2, line 5) limits the bird species to those named. Also, Section 2 (page 2, line 19-25; page 3, line 1) defines the term management.

<u>Budget</u>		
<u>1983</u>	<u>1984</u>	<u>1985</u>
75,362	78,259	75,904

FTE - 2.0 - remains the same

CONTACT: Keith Kelly, Director  
Director's Office  
Phone: 449-3144

Gary Gingery, Administrator  
Environmental Management Division  
Phone: 449-2944

George Algard, Bureau Chief  
Environmental Management Division  
Phone: 449-2944



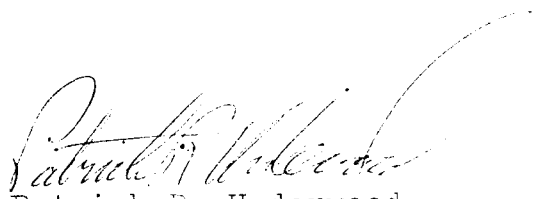
WITNESS STATEMENT

NAME Patrick R. Underwood BILL No. HB 7 85  
ADDRESS 502 S. 19th Ave, Bozeman, Mt. 59715 DATE ~~FEB 28~~ 1983  
WHOM DO YOU REPRESENT Montana Farm Bureau Federation  
SUPPORT X OPPOSE                      AMEND                     

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH SECRETARY.

Comments:

The Montana Farm Bureau supports this bill. Both Departments have briefed our Agricultural groups on several occasions this fall regarding this matter. We are in full agreement with their proposals and recommend a DO PASS on House Bill 85.



Patrick R. Underwood  
Director of Information & Public Affairs  
Montana Farm Bureau Federation



# WIFE Women Involved In Farm Economics

NAME JO GRUNER BILL NO. HB 85-  
 ADDRESS 563 3rd ST. NEENA DATE 2/28/83  
 REPRESENT WOMEN INVOLVED IN FARM ECONOMICS  
 SUPPORT X OPPOSE          AMEND         

COMMENTS:

It is our understanding that the Department  
 of Agriculture has, in essence been doing  
 the work for the Dept. of Social Services  
 for some time because of departmental personnel situation.  
 We support this changeover and changes  
 in wording, and designations in HB 85-  
 Thank you!

Ex #4  
2-28-83  
HB 515  
Agric.

PROPERTY OWNER THAT WANTS TO BE COM-  
PENSATED FOR DAMAGES CAUSED BY GRIZZLY  
BEARS CONTACTS DEPARTMENT.

DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEE INSPECTS THE PROP-  
ERTY AND DRAFTS A PREVENTION AGREEMENT.

BOTH PARTIES SIGN THE AGREEMENT.  
LAND OWNER COMPLIES WITH THE TERMS  
OF THE AGREEMENT.

DEPARTMENT AND PROPERTY OWNER ARE  
UNABLE TO AGREE ON THE TERMS OF  
THE PREVENTION AGREEMENT.

BOARD OF REVIEWERS (3-MEMBER BOARD  
CHOSEN BY THE PROPERTY OWNER AND  
DEPARTMENT) INSPECT THE PROPERTY  
AND DRAFT A PREVENTION AGREEMENT.

BOTH PARTIES SIGN THE AGREEMENT.  
LANDOWNER COMPLIES WITH THE TERMS  
OF THE AGREEMENT.

DAMAGE OCCURS AND IS REPORTED AS  
SOON AS POSSIBLE TO THE DEPARTMENT.

THE DEPARTMENT INSPECTS THE DAMAGE  
AND DETERMINES IF IT WAS A GRIZZLY  
BEAR, THE EXTENT AND VALUE OF DAMAGE,  
AND IF TERMS OF AGREEMENT WERE FOLLOWED.

COMPENSATION IS PAID.

PROPERTY OWNER AND DEPARTMENT ARE  
UNABLE TO AGREE ON COMPENSATION.

BOARD OF REVIEWERS INSPECT DAMAGE  
AND MAKE FINAL DETERMINATION.

COMPENSATION IS PAID.



United States Department of the Interior  
OFFICE OF THE SOLICITOR

DENVER REGION  
P.O. BOX 25007  
DENVER FEDERAL CENTER  
DENVER, COLORADO 80225

REGISTERED MAIL--  
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

FEB 7 1983

Ex #5  
2-28-83  
HB 515  
Agric

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE,	:	CIVIL PENALTY PROCEEDING
	:	
Complainant,	:	ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT
	:	
v.	:	16 U.S.C. S 1538-1540
	:	
RICHARD PAUL CHRISTY	:	INV 8-23014
	:	
Respondent	:	

NOTICE OF VIOLATION

On or about July 9, 1982, while subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, Respondent did shoot and kill a grizzly bear Ursus arctos, near Chief Mountain on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation, in Glacier County, Montana, thus, violating the Endangered Species Act. Respondent violated Section 1538(a)(1) of Title 16 of the United States Code which makes it unlawful to take any endangered species, fish or wildlife. Section 1540 of Title 16 provides that a civil penalty may be assessed by the Secretary of the Interior to any person who knowingly violates this regulation. Respondent did in fact violate Section 1538 (a)(1) of Title 16.

NOTICE:

Complainant proposes to assess Respondent a civil penalty of \$3,000.00. This notice initiates the civil penalty proceeding. Respondent may answer this notice by:

- (1) paying the proposed \$3,000.00 civil penalty;
- (2) undertaking informal discussion with Complainant;
- (3) filing a Petition for Relief in accordance with sections 11.11 and 11.12 of the attached regulations; or
- (4) taking no action and awaiting the final assessment decision by Complainant.

Regardless of the answer Respondent chooses to make, Respondent should read the attached regulations since they govern this proceeding and explain Respondent's rights therein. Any answer Respondent makes must be submitted within 45 days from the date of this notice.

CURTIS MENELEE  
ATTORNEY  
FOR THE DIRECTOR  
U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Office of the Solicitor  
Rocky Mountain Region  
P.O. Box 25007  
Denver Federal Center  
Denver, Colorado 80025

Ex 6

2-28-83

HB515  
Agric

This letter is to inform you of the circumstances surrounding the grizzly bear incident referred to in the attached documents.

We entered into a Blackfeet Tribe Grazing Permit No. 273. Approximately July 1st our herder reported finding several sheep carcass he thought to be either lion or bear kills. We requested assistance from the Federal Trapper, Ken Wheeler. Mr. Wheeler went up to the lease and after investigating and talking with the herder, reported back to us that the herder was having serious bear problems. He then set some traps to try and catch the bears. On July 9, we went up to the lease and found our herder and guard dogs completely exhausted. The herder said he had been up day and night trying to keep the bears out of the sheep. He reported seeing two black bears and two grizzlies and that they had been coming into the sheep every two hours all night long for the past four nights. He said he would scare them off by shooting into the air, but something else had to be done he couldn't go on much longer without sleep. The trapper had no luck with the snares except for one ewe and lamb which the bears promptly devoured. At noon of that day we were sitting at the camp table having lunch when a black bear came into camp, completely avoiding the snares, and I shot him. We went further up the mountain to checkout where we would be moving next. We came back about 6 p.m. and were waiting for the herder to come in with the sheep when the second black bear came strolling right into camp, so I shot it also. About dark, Mr. Wheeler came in to check his snares, the sheep were bedded down next to the camp and we were having a cup of coffee when two grizzlies came lopping towards us. I grabbed my gun and shot the lead bear about fifty yards away. My concern at this moment was for my life, that of my wife and my herder as we were between the sheep and the bears. I told Mr. Wheeler to do whatever was necessary with the bears. He gave the blacks to the Tribe and reported the grizzly to the proper authorities.

The second grizzly came into the sheep twice more that night. The next morning we moved camp as far away as possible, but the bears continued in their harrassment. We tried to get some assistance from the Tribe, but

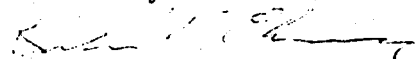
they were indifferent to say the least. They did let out a bit of information that concerned us. It seems they had an agreement with the U.S. Gov't to accept their "trouble grizzlies" from Glacier Park, for study purposes, on the same permit that we had leased from them for sheep grazing.

On one occasion a couple bears ran about 50 head of sheep into a pond, killing 10 of them. The trapper happen on the scene and helped the herder retrieve some of the water logged sheep. He then set three snares using 9 dead sheep for bait. That night the bears came in and took the one dead sheep from the pond but didn't go near the snares. Five times in the next ten days the grizzlies got into the sheep at night, killing and scattering them over the mountain side. By this time the herder was expressing fear for his own safety and wanted off that mountain alive. The federal government informed us that we did not have the right to protect our sheep from the bears, if it meant killing them, which made it a "catch 22" situation. Most of these grizzlies had already been snared once or more for tagging and radio collars which made them snare wise. Once bears start killing sheep they become very belligerent and nothing short of trapping and removing or killing them works.

After pressure from several sources, the Tribe agreed to refund the remainder of our lease money and we moved off the permit on July 24th. We lost 40 ewes and 44 lambs in the forty days we were there. We had to sell off 400 ewes since we did not have sufficient pasture for them at home at that time of year. Our monetary losses were approximately \$70,000.

The thing that distresses us most through this entire experience is that we have: (1) been deprived of a natural and renewable resource, grass, for the production of food and fiber and; (2) allowed our law makers to strip from us some basic rights which were inherent from biblical times namely the protection of life and property. Imposing a penalty for \$3,000 for protecting our lives and property is adding insult to injury.

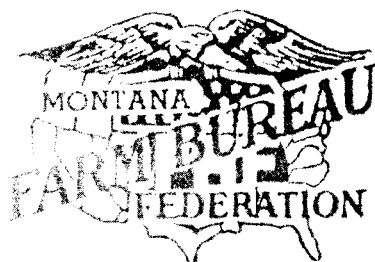
Sincerely



Richard P. Christy, Sr.

Rte 2 West

Fairfield, MT 59436



# MONTANA FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

502 SOUTH 19th

Dial 587-3153

BOZEMAN, MONTANA 59715

DATE FEB 28, 1955

NAME PAT UNDERWOOD

BILL NUMBER HB 515

SUPPORT X

OPPOSE

AMMEND

Montana Farm Bureau supports  
HB 515, but does express the  
same reservation as the Montana  
Wool Growers regarding the wording  
"attempts to kill or would by and  
method" Page 6, line 21. We would  
RECOMMEND THIS BE STRUCK FROM  
THE BILL

# Montana Audubon Council

Testimony HB 515

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

My name is Janet Ellis and I'm here today representing the Montana Audubon Council. The Council is composed of 8 chapters with 2400 members located throughout the state.

We support HB 515. We realize the importance of private land in supporting Montana's wildlife. We also realize that with this support, undue hardships can occur when animals destroy livestock and crops. The grizzly bear is a particularly controversial animal because of its status under Federal law.

HB 515 offers a solution to a problem. The "Grizzly Bear Compensation Act" sets up a program with checks and balances: it requires landowners to practice preventive measures so that excessive damage will not occur to their properties; when that damage seems unavoidable, however, the State pays the landowner for damage done by the State's wildlife. The program seems equitable because the landowner and the State are working together to prevent property damage and ensure proper management of the grizzly bear. Neither the State or <sup>the</sup> landowner <sup>is</sup> ~~are~~ encouraged ~~to~~ by this act to use ~~the~~ monetary compensation when it is not necessary.

The Montana Audubon Council supports HB 515 realizing that there needs to be work done on this legislation before it is approved. There are two questions <sup>for example,</sup> <sup>that</sup> ~~is~~ need to be answered concerning the financing of this program: 1) What happens if the \$20,000 yearly ceiling level for the program is reached and there are more claims to be filed? and 2) Where are the funds for this program to come from? As far as the second question is concerned, the Audubon Council believes that wildlife is a public trust resource <sup>and hence</sup> ~~we believe that that~~ every Montanan has the responsibility of keeping this resource viable: <sup>We</sup> ~~The Audubon Council~~ respectfully requests that ~~this~~ this program be funded out of General Fund monies.

We support HB 515 realizing that this bill is not perfect, yet hoping that this committee can iron out the problems in this bill through discussion and consideration of the parties specifically involved: the Dept. of Fish, Wildlife & Parks and ~~the~~ <sup>involved</sup> the landowners.

Thank you.



7

My name is Cindy Osmundson. I am here representing the University of Montana Student Chapter of the Wildlife Society. In addition to field training in biology, participants in The Wildlife Society experience the recreational and aesthetical benefits of Montana's wildlife. Our activities and beliefs have created an interest in House Bill No. 515. We feel that land owners are justified in being compensated for damage done to their property by grizzly bears.

It is unquestionable that Montanans appreciate and respect the presence of the grizzly bear in our state; however, it is also unquestionable that the grizzly bear is a predator. In the past, Montana landowners, also a valued part of Montana, have had to absorb expenses for damage done by grizzly bears. The Wildlife Society sees this as an unreasonable policy when considering that all people of Montana own the state's wildlife.

We all recognize the conflicts between the grizzly bear and the landowner. The goal of ranching is to market a product, not feed grizzly bears. However, since grizzly bears and livestock live in such close association, compromises must be made by both landowners and defenders of grizzly bears. Members of The Wildlife Society, who live in all areas of the state, are willing to have their tax dollars used to help assume responsibility for the damage done by grizzly bears to private property.

House Bill No. 515 suggests a sum of \$20,000 to compensate for damages. The Wildlife Society proposes that the \$20,000 be issued from the state's general fund. Under this funding policy, the costs of compensation would be shared by all people in Montana. Again, our justification for this is that people throughout the state value the presence of the grizzly bear.

As a final point, we want to stress the possible long term benefits of House Bill No. 515. As a result of this bill The Wildlife Society foresees better education and information on how a harmony can be established between livestock and grizzly bears, as well as as a workable harmony between biologists, landowners, and watchers of wildlife.

H.B. 515

10

## Senate Agricultural Committee

I would like to support H.B. 515, Grizzly Depredation Bill. I am from Glacier County, which probably has the greatest amount of Grizzly Bear related property damage incidents in the state. I think this provision is necessary to equitably compensate property owners, especially those individuals engaged in agricultural endeavors which make up such a large proportion of our state economy.

I would also like to speak on behalf of the Indian population of the state. Many Indian people cannot even address this matter because of the deep religious significance this animal holds in the culture of the various Tribes. I see this Bill as an avenue of preventing unnecessary killing of these creatures and providing compensation to farmers and stockmen.

Thank you very much.

Joseph T. Jessepe  
Box 36  
Browning Montana  
59417

# STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

February 28

19 83

MR. **PRESIDENT**

We, your committee on **AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK & IRRIGATION**

having had under consideration **HOUSE** Bill No. **85**  
**Bertelsen (Ochsner)**

Respectfully report as follows: That **HOUSE** Bill No. **85**  
**third reading blue**

**BE CONCURRED IN**

~~XXXXXX~~

*HC*

# STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

February 28 19 83

MR. PRESIDENT

We, your committee on AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK & IRRIGATION

having had under consideration HOUSE Bill No. 159  
Ellison (Ochsner)

Respectfully report as follows: That HOUSE Bill No. 159  
third reading blue

BE CONCURRED IN

~~XXXXXX~~  
~~DO PASS~~

Jack E. Galt, Chairman.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

February 28 19 83

PRESIDENT  
MR. ....

We, your committee on AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK & IRRIGATION .....

having had under consideration HOUSE Bill No. 432  
Devlin (Lane)

Respectfully report as follows: That HOUSE Bill No. 432  
third reading blue

BE CONCURRED IN

~~XXXXXX~~

*Handwritten initials*