

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK & IRRIGATION COMMITTEE
50TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

February 11, 1987

Rep. Duane W. Compton, Chairman of the ALI Committee called this meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. in Room 317 of the Capitol, Helena.

ROLL CALL

Rep. Leo Giacometto was excused; all other members were present. Tom Gomez, researcher was present.

HB 458 was to be heard.

HOUSE BILL 458

Rep. William (Bill) Glaser, House District #98, Yellowstone County, is chief sponsor of HB 458 which is an act to establish a lease value for agricultural state land based on average crop value of land in the county wherein the state land is located; amends several sections. His family has farmed in Daniels and Big Horn Counties for many years. His son-in-law suggested cash leases for state land might be simpler and bring honesty back to the leasing of school sections. Cash leases would allow a farmer to operate state land as he would his own and the DSL wouldn't have to build a bureaucracy to see that people were behaving properly. The federal government is not reporting quickly enough so the bill has some problems. They intended to look at three cropping months for price - July, August, and September - for the county. This price would include freight and other such things, basically what is included in price now except present prices are based more on a share basis. A three-year average would be taken into consideration, but because of the action of the federal government it is difficult to arrive at this figure. His intent was to make it so you could operate the place like it was your own.

The formula would follow the yield of the area by one year. The state would lose a little on the first year because of drought. In order to be reported honestly, policing would be required. The DSL does not have staff to do this adequately. He would like the committee to look at these numbers and determine where policing is necessary for the state to get a fair return for their land. The yields of counties vary. Choteau County has yields of 33 bushels per acre average and

AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK & IRRIGATION COMMITTEE
February 11, 1987 - Page 2

the state is getting \$14 per acre; Daniels has a 14.7 average and they are paying \$12 per acre. Some work will have to be done on it. The proposed cash lease program would not be cash in advance, it would be using a formula to determine yields, etc. He thought it might be better to come back in a couple of years with something more workable. See EXHIBIT #1.

PROPONENTS

DENNIS HEMMER, Commissioner of the Department of State Lands, supports the concept of a cash lease, and believes there is a way to make it workable that is fair to the producer and to the state. He has no figures on the impact on lessees or the state. He suggested something be done during the interim with the department working with interested parties. There are some plusses to the lessees once there is a value set if a lessee wants to do something that puts more money in his pocket. The classic one-fourth crop share might be changed. He wants direction to go ahead and work with this and bring a plan back to the next session.

OPPONENTS

REP. DENNIS NATHE, House District #19, opposes HB 458 as written. The remarks of the previous speakers probably have some merit. There is already plenty of policing power; and if you underreport the penalty can be severe. If there is underreporting going on, the leases in those areas should be jerked. The State Land Board is made up of the Governor, Attorney General, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Auditor, and Secretary of State. Those five have the power to stop that problem.

If you move to an average thing somehow, and if you set up a study, the problem is that there is such a variation in some counties in the type of land in different areas of a county. Those people on the light soil will be penalized. It will be difficult to work out community averages because of the various soil types. There is the problem with numerical averages also when some people fertilize and others don't. You can only get federal crop insurance on summerfallow for 12 bushels per acre. Other areas have proven yields of 30-33 bushels per acre. Quite a variation when using county averages.

HB 458 doesn't say anything about any farm program payments, and that should be looked at. There is nothing with regard to the CRP program under the Federal Farm Program. Testimony should be from people who are out on that land and have direct experience with that.

AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK & IRRIGATION COMMITTEE
February 11, 1987 - Page 3

ROBERT J. FOUHY, leaseholder representing the Farm Land Management Council in Billings and his ill father, read a letter opposing HB 458. See his letter, EXHIBIT #2. He showed a picture of a field planted in five rod strips to help reduce soil erosion. EXHIBIT #3. He also left a picture depicting the grasshopper infestation his area suffered. EXHIBIT #4. He opposes HB 458 vehemently.

JOHN WITTY, President of the Citizens State Bank of Scobey, reported Daniels County has been declared a disaster area for the past 9 years. There were 7 years without rain, then the hoppers moved in, and then the drought. They are one of the leading banks in Montana that uses the FHA farm lending program. They have about 50% of the farm operating loans in that area in their portfolio. The loans are for 7 years with balloon payments at the end, then the balloon payment is refinanced for another 7 years. After this length of time there is a lot of hurt. They issue loans at 7% and balloon them out, and get 2% in an interest buy down from the FHA which is 7% interest altogether. The prime rate is 10%, but they can live with that.

When pencilling these loans, and when 20% of land is owned by the state, there is no cash going out of that for a cash flow so they can keep that farmer alive. This kind of legislation should have gotten the message before now about the financial situation of farmers. We don't want any more taxes. On this project you are going to pick up another \$10 million. You are coming in the back door after the basic industry in this state which is hurting badly already. He is glad it has been decided this is a poor bill. The state would be losing the revenue they are getting, and it will cost the state a great deal to spray that land because there will be no one left.

CAROL MOSHER, representing the Montana CattleWomen, the Montana Stockgrowers Association, and the Montana Association of State Grazing Districts, opposes HB 458. See her EXHIBIT #5.

LUVERNE NIESKENS leases state land and has been a director of the Daniels Sheridan Federal Credit Union for 265 years, and opposes HB 458. See his testimony, EXHIBIT #6. He added that any time a farmer quits farming, he never enters back into it. They have a lot of good hardworking family farms in their area that they wouldn't like to see go down the drain.

KAY NORENBURG, WIFE, wanted to be recorded as opposing HB 458.

AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK & IRRIGATION COMMITTEE
February 11, 1987 - Page 4

TOM LOFTSGAARD, a leaseholder representing the Land Management Council which is an organization of state land leaseholders, left a stack of (69 - EXHIBIT #8) letters to be entered into the testimony opposing HB 458. The bill has too many technical and mechanical difficulties. See his testimony, EXHIBIT #7.

LORNA FRANK, Montana Farm Bureau, stated Daniels County is very concerned about HB 458. We have heard a lot of testimony today from people in Daniels County. She would like this bill not to be passed.

ANABELLE FOUHY, Daniels County, opposes HB 458. Small businesses will go down the drain as farmers are gone, and they are having enough problems with small businesses without this happening.

QUESTIONS (OR DISCUSSION) FROM THE COMMITTEE

Rep. Rapp-Svrcek asked Rep. Nathe if Daniels County is the only county that would be adversely affected by this legislation. Rep. Nathe replied the reason for the opposition is that what you do with state land down here has a tremendous impact because Daniels County has 980,000 acres of which 25-26% is owned by the state of Montana. They are butting up against another 200,000 acres in one geographic area. What you do is of intense interest up there, or if you are going to extract more money from up there. Other counties in the state have a large amount of state land. In 1889 the federal government declared sections 16 and 36 should be set aside for support of the schools. The federal forests, parks, and Indian reservations have no state land in them. When the land was homesteaded, the best land was taken up first. Northeast Montana homesteaders got in on some real sandy soil that was left. Every county should have 6% of their land in state land. About 12 counties exceed that amount - Daniels has 20-25%, Chouteau County has 12%, Beaverhead County has a huge amount. This bill concerns that geographic area and the high amount of state land acreage that is being farmed.

Rep. Holliday asked Kelly Blake, State Lands Division Administrator, about the possibility of getting direction from this committee. Can that be done in the House or by passing a resolution? Mr. Blake said the department could take information, put it together, and come up with some idea for a cash lease proposal after studying the different situations in the state and some meetings have been held with interested parties. Mr. Blake had not expected to ask for additional revenues to carry out such a study. They are

AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK & IRRIGATION COMMITTEE
February 11, 1987 - Page 5

getting information from various statistical reporting places that would justify the situation that lessees are in.

Rep. Jenkins asked if these leases could be pulled for underpayment, and how many of them have been pulled for underpayment of crop? Mr. Blake advised they have not cancelled a lease in the last five years for crop underpayments. It is very difficult because they can review the tract and arrive at an estimate of say 33 bushels per acre, then wind, hail, pestilence, grasshoppers could ruin the crop afterwards, and it could be said you cheated the state. Frankly it is an almost impossible task.

Rep. Corne' said it appears that the present system of leasing and charging is inequitable, and there is some differential between counties. Rep. Glaser said the system itself isn't inequitable, but the results are inequitable. The study that state lands did proved that. With a cash lease people could operate a piece of state land like their own, and if there were dishonesty in the system, the deeded farmers and the private lease farmer wouldn't have to back up the shortfall of the people who are leasing state lands.

Rep. Ellison asked where the figures came from. Rep. Glaser said they came from the DSL. Yellowstone County is underreporting 25-30%. Mr. Blake said the figures were a random sample. They pulled only 10 leases. He feels the staff must review 1,000 leases for an average. They have a limited number of people who do a crop review. If a study is done, those things could be emphasized. Also it might alert the public that their reports are being looked into and may make for better compliance. Rep. Ellison thought if \$10 million is at stake, it probably would be worth their while.

Rep. Patterson asked how many school sections were not leased this last year, and how many will not be leased in the coming years? Mr. Hemmer said there is virtually no state farming land not leased. There are some grazing lands, but nobody wants to take them on because they have so many weeds on them.

Rep. Glaser stated the fiscal note is valueless; Rep. Nathe agreed. The \$10 million simply is not there. Bidding would take care of the problem of the variables of productivity. A cash lease gets rid of the possibility of people manipulating the numbers to get a better edge on somebody else. Rep. DeMars' county would gain by this; Rep. Jenkins' would not do so well. By dealing with averages as a base or a reference where you can take a bid, you can treat it as your own - you

AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK & IRRIGATION COMMITTEE
February 11, 1987 - Page 6

don't have politics. Deeded land farmers know about that because this is the way taxes are paid. A modified cash lease if worked out carefully would benefit everybody but the cheater. The farmers would make as much or more, the state would get its share, the deeded farmer wouldn't have to pay more than their share.

Mr. Hemmer explained the fiscal note is in error. He directed them to take the bill as sent to them and generate a cost for this committee. As they read the bill, there would be no provisions for a crop fallow system, so that figure would drop to half. That figure is a gross revenue, so consequently it is double counted.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

HOUSE BILL 458

Rep. Cody moved HB 458 Do Not Pass; Rep. DeMars seconded the motion. Rep. Holliday made a substitute motion that HB 458 BE TABLED; motion was seconded and carried unanimously. Rep. Giacometto was absent. Rep. Holliday said her motion was made at the request of the sponsor.

HOUSE BILL 346

Rep. Wallin, sponsor of this bill requested that it be tabled. Rep. DeMars moved that HB 346 BE TABLED; Rep. Jenkins seconded the motion, and it was unanimously adopted.

HOUSE BILL 461

Rep. Rapp-Svrcek moved that HB 461 DO PASS; Rep. Cody seconded the motion. Rep. Corne' explained that basically the bill was carried for the beekeepers themselves. They will pay the increase in fees voted on themselves. The fiscal note is actually going to represent \$5,000 plus money for the general fund each year. Rep. Corne' moved the Statement of Intent Do Pass; Rep. Bachini seconded the motion which was adopted unanimously. Rep. Rapp-Svrcek restated his motion to HB 461 DO PASS WITH STATEMENT OF INTENT ATTACHED; and it was unanimously adopted.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before this meeting, it was adjourned at 2:25 p.m.

Duane W. Compton, Jr.
REP. DUANE W. COMPTON, Chairman

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

February 11

19 87

Mr. Speaker: We, the committee on AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK & IRRIGATION

report HOUSE BILL 461

☒ do pass
☐ do not pass

☐ be concurred in
☐ be not concurred in

☐ as amended
☒ statement of intent attached

REP. DUANE W. COMPTON Chairman

STATEMENT OF INTENT

House Bill No. 461

A statement of intent is required for this bill because it provides the department of agriculture authority to adopt rules for administration of this act.

It is the intent of the legislature that the department establish rules for the detection of pest honeybees by using the most efficient, scientifically acceptable method of identifying pests.

It is further the intent of the legislature that the department establish by rule a fee structure for laboratory services. The department should set fees to correspond with the costs of providing services. These costs include both direct and indirect costs, plus expenses associated with operation of the laboratory authorized under section 9.

In setting fees, the department may take into consideration the economic difficulties of the apiary industry and may reduce fees as may be necessary to promote increased use of services. The department may provide services at less than cost if alternative funding is available or if the economic conditions of the industry require the reduction of charges.

In addition, it is the intent of the legislature that the department establish by rule an effective method for conducting quarantines to prevent the entry and spread of harmful honeybee pests and diseases, such as Africanized honeybees and honeybee mites. It is contemplated that the department quarantine any apiary where pest honeybees or any contagious or infectious diseases are present and, during the quarantine, prevent the removal from the apiary of any bees or equipment.

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EXHIBIT #1

DATE Feb 11, 1987

HB 485

Rep William Hleser

In September of 1986 a study was performed on actual data that is reported by the lessee to the Department of State Lands. This study involved taking data off of the reports to the Department of State Lands concerning the year in which a crop was reported, the number of acres of which was held for the lease, the number of acres planted, the amount of harvest in appropriate weights, the payment for the crop, and the type of crop planted. This study then went on to determine what the cash value of a particular county's crop might be worth using regression analysis of the data.

Specific analyses were conducted for the counties of Chouteau and Daniels. In the study concerning Chouteau County it was shown that neither the year (effectively the weather in different years) had an effect on the amount of payment for the crop harvested, nor did the number of acres planted in Chouteau County. While on the other hand, in Daniels County, the year and the acres planted were shown to have an effect upon the payment made for the harvest.

In this study, for Chouteau County, wheat was shown to have a higher effect for the total acres held than the effect of harvest yield was shown to have. In Daniels County the acres planted and the harvest yield seem to have the most effect upon the total received in payments for the crop. From the data determined in the study of September, 1986, it appears that Daniels County payment is closely based upon the acres planted and the amount harvested. On the other hand, it appears that Chouteau County payment is closely based on the acres totally held by the lessee and not based on the acres planted or the acres harvested.

<u>County</u>	<u>State Agricultural Acres (Appx.) (1)</u>	<u>Average Price Received/Acre (2)</u>	<u>Average County Yield in Bushels 82 - 85 (3)</u>
Daniels	108751	\$12.16	14.7
McCone	2799	\$ 9.41	21.7
Liberty	26596	\$ 9.22	24.4
Fallon	8592	\$ 8.61	24.5
Judith Basin	16210	\$10.94	25.4
Custer	3475	\$ 8.50	26.3
Fergus	12157	\$10.52	28.3
Cascade	13050	\$19.12	30.6
Pondera	25453	\$15.68	31.4
Chouteau	79138	\$14.91	33.1

- (1) This is the approximate number of acres within the county designated and classified as agricultural land under lease by the Department of State Lands.
- (2) This is the average price including crop payments and government payments received by DSL over a 10-year period (1976 - 1985) for 10 leases in each county, except Liberty 8 leases, chosen at random.
- (3) This is the average ASCS county yield in bushels for all wheat as reported by the Montana Agricultural Statistics Service for 1982 - 1985.

EXHIBIT # 2

DATE Feb 11, 1987

HB 458

Rep Wm. H. H. H. H.

DEAR CHAIRMAN MONTGOMERY & COMMITTEE,

I AM OPPOSED TO HOUSE BILL 458 [REDACTED] THIS PROPOSED LEGISLATION DOES NOT IN ANY WAY PROVIDE AN EQUITABLE METHOD OF SETTING RENTALS ON SCHOOL-TRUST LANDS IN OUR AREA.

THE LAND IN WESTERN DANIELS COUNTY DOES NOT AND NEVER WILL RAISE CROPS AS GOOD AS THE EASTERN HALF. ALSO, THE STATE LAND WHICH AS YOU KNOW COMPRISES A HUGE PERCENTAGE OF THE WESTERN HALF OF OUR COUNTY IS BY FAR THE POOREST LAND. WHEN THIS AREA WAS HOMESTEADED, THE FARMERS WHO WERE FORTUNATE ENOUGH TO HOMESTEAD GOOD LAND WERE ABLE TO SCRAPE BY AND THE REST HAD TO LEAVE. THE REST OF THE LAND WHICH IS MOSTLY SAND (SOME OF WHICH IS NOT EVEN A GOOD GRADE OF SAND) GRAVEL, AND IS IN GENERAL LESS PRODUCTIVE LAND, IS NOW OWNED BY THE STATE. THIS IS THE LAND WHICH YOU NOW WANT TO CHANGE FROM A PERCENTAGE RENTAL TO A CASH LEASE BASED ON THE MORE PRODUCTIVE LAND IN THE COUNTY.

MEMBERS OF THE LAND MANAGEMENT COUNCIL HAVE IN THE PAST, WITHOUT ANY DOUBT, BROUGHT ASCS RECORDS TO HELENA WHICH HAVE PROVEN HOW UNPRODUCTIVE THE VAST MAJORITY OF THE STATE OWNED LAND IN NORTHERN VALLEY AND WESTERN DANIELS COUNTY IS.

BY THE MERE FACT THAT THERE IS SUCH A HIGH PERCENTAGE OF STATE LAND IN OUR COUNTY IS TESTIMONY TO THE HARDSHIP WHICH OUR COUNTY ENDURES. GRANTED, WE RECEIVE SOME MONIES BACK IN LIEU OF TAXES BUT THIS PALTRY AMOUNT IS ALMOST AN INSULT TO OUR FARMERS AND RESIDENTS WHO SACRIFICE SO MUCH FOR THE GOOD OF THE SCHOOLS OF ALL MONTANA.

WHEN THE STATE RECEIVES A CROP SHARE OF THE COMMODITIES GROWN ON THIS LAND, BE IT DROUGHT OR GOOD YEARS, WE KNOW THAT THE STATE WILL GET THEIR 25% OR 33% OR WHATEVER THE LEASE IS. IF WE'RE ON A CASH LEASE AND WE GET SIX DROUGHT YEARS IN A ROW, WHICH WE HAVE JUST HAD, SEARS & ROEBUCK WILL BE FARMING THIS LAND.

RIGHT NOW, WE AND ALL FARMERS ARE HAVING ONE HELL OF A TIME SHOWING ENOUGH OF A CASH FLOW SO WE CAN BORROW OPERATING MONEY WITHOUT BEING PENALIZED FOR AN ACT OF GOD. WITH A MAJOR SHARE OF THE STATE LAND BEING IN DANIELS COUNTY, THE COFFERS HAVE SUFFERED TERRIBLY BECAUSE OF THE DROUGHT WE'VE HAD WHICH WAS COMPOUNDED BY GRASSHOPPERS. WE HAD A DROUGHT IN DANIELS COUNTY WHICH STARTED THREE YEARS BEFORE THE REST OF THE STATE, CONSEQUENTLY, WHEN AN AREA AS LARGE AS THIS HAS A SEVERE DROUGHT THE LACK OF MONIES COMING FROM THE SCHOOL TRUST LANDS IS VERY NOTICEABLE. IF THE PRICE OF WHEAT WAS STILL

REASONABLE AND WE AGAIN BEGIN HAVING RESPECTABLE CROPS, THE MONEY WILL AGAIN BE THERE.

I WOULD SUGGEST THAT MR. GLASER SUBSTITUTE THE WORD "RAPE" FOR THE WORD "CROPPED" IN HIS ASSUMPTION ON FORM BD-15 TO THEN READ: "ALL STATE LAND WOULD BE LEASED AND RAPED TO CAPACITY." WE WHO LEASE STATE LAND PREFER TO MANAGE THESE LEASES TO THE BEST OF OUR ABILITY TO INSURE A HIGH AMOUNT OF INCOME FOR OURSELVES AND THE SCHOOLS IN THE STATE OF MONTANA TO CONSERVE THE SOIL FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS BY PLANTING WATERWAYS, WINDBREAKS, AND IMPLEMENTING OTHER CONSERVATION AND GOOD FARMING PRACTICES. THE MAJORITY OF THE STATE LAND IS LIGHTER LAND SO PROTECTION FROM SOIL EROSION HAS TO BE OUR FOREMOST CONCERN OR ALL PRODUCTION WILL BE LOST. SINCE WE'RE BARELY ABLE TO CARRY OUT THESE PRACTICES PAYING A 25% CROP SHARE, I WOULD SUGGEST WITH THIS CASH LEASE FORMULA THE SOIL FROM STATE OWNED LAND IN DANIELS COUNTY WILL AGAIN, IN THE FUTURE, BE UP IN THE AIR.

CERTAIN PORTIONS OF THIS TESTIMONY WERE NOT MEANT TO BE ANTAGONISTIC. HOWEVER, I FELT THAT SOME STRONG EMPHASIS WAS IN ORDER TO DRAW ATTENTION TO THE POINTS WHICH I HAVE INTENDED TO ESTABLISH.

WE REALIZE THAT SOMETHING MUST BE DONE TO INSURE THAT THE OWNER OF THIS LAND RECEIVES THE SHARE WHICH IS SPECIFIED IN THE INDIVIDUAL LEASES. HOWEVER, THERE ARE TOO MANY PROBLEMS WITH HOUSE BILL 458 AT THIS TIME. WE FEEL THAT THIS BILL SHOULD BE PUT ON THE BACK BURNER, "SO TO SPEAK" AND A SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEMS SHOULD BE WORKED OUT.

SINCERELY,

ROBERT J. FOUNY, LEASEHOLDER
DANIELS COUNTY
PEERLESS, MT 59253

IN CONCLUSION, I FEEL THAT THIS BILL SHOULD BE KILLED AT THIS TIME.

IN A FURTHER ATTEMPT TO PROVE THAT HOUSE BILL 458 IS AN INEQUITABLE WAY TO OBTAIN MONIES FROM SCHOOL TRUST LANDS IN WESTERN DANIELS COUNTY AND NORTHERN VALLEY COUNTIES, I WILL USE THIS YIELD EXAMPLE OF ONE TRACT OF DEEDED LAND AND TWO STATE LEASES FROM THE PAST FOUR YEARS. THESE RECORDS CAN DEFINITELY BE SUBSTANTIATED. ALL ARE FEDERAL CROP INSURANCE MEASURED EXCEPT 1985 ON DEEDED LAND AND 1985 ON TRACT #2 STATE LAND.

A representative yield comparison from one Tract of Deeded Land and Two Tracts of State owned Land. This comparison is owned and Leased by the same Operator and his son.

year	Deeded Land yield	#1 State Land yield	#2 State Land yield	
1983	16 drought	PIK	15 drought	
1984	15 drought (hoppers)	0 (drought)	12.25 drought, hoppers	
1985	4.25 drought (hoppers)	0 (drought grasshopper)	3.28 drought, hoppers	
1986	42	0	25	
Average yield:	19.3	0	13.88	

Average yield State Land = 6.94

Deeded Land = 19.3

All Tracts suffered drought and grasshopper damage in years 1985 and earlier. All yields are measured by the Federal Crop Insurance Corp. with the exception of 1985 on Deeded and 1985

Soil Type: Deeded Land, Farland

#1 State Land, Lihen

#2 State Land, Turner

According To The Soil Conservation Service Expected Spring wheat yields with adequate Moisture are

Farland Soil = 34

Turner Soil = 22

EXHIBIT 13

DATE Feb 11, 1987

HB 458

Rep. Stanislav

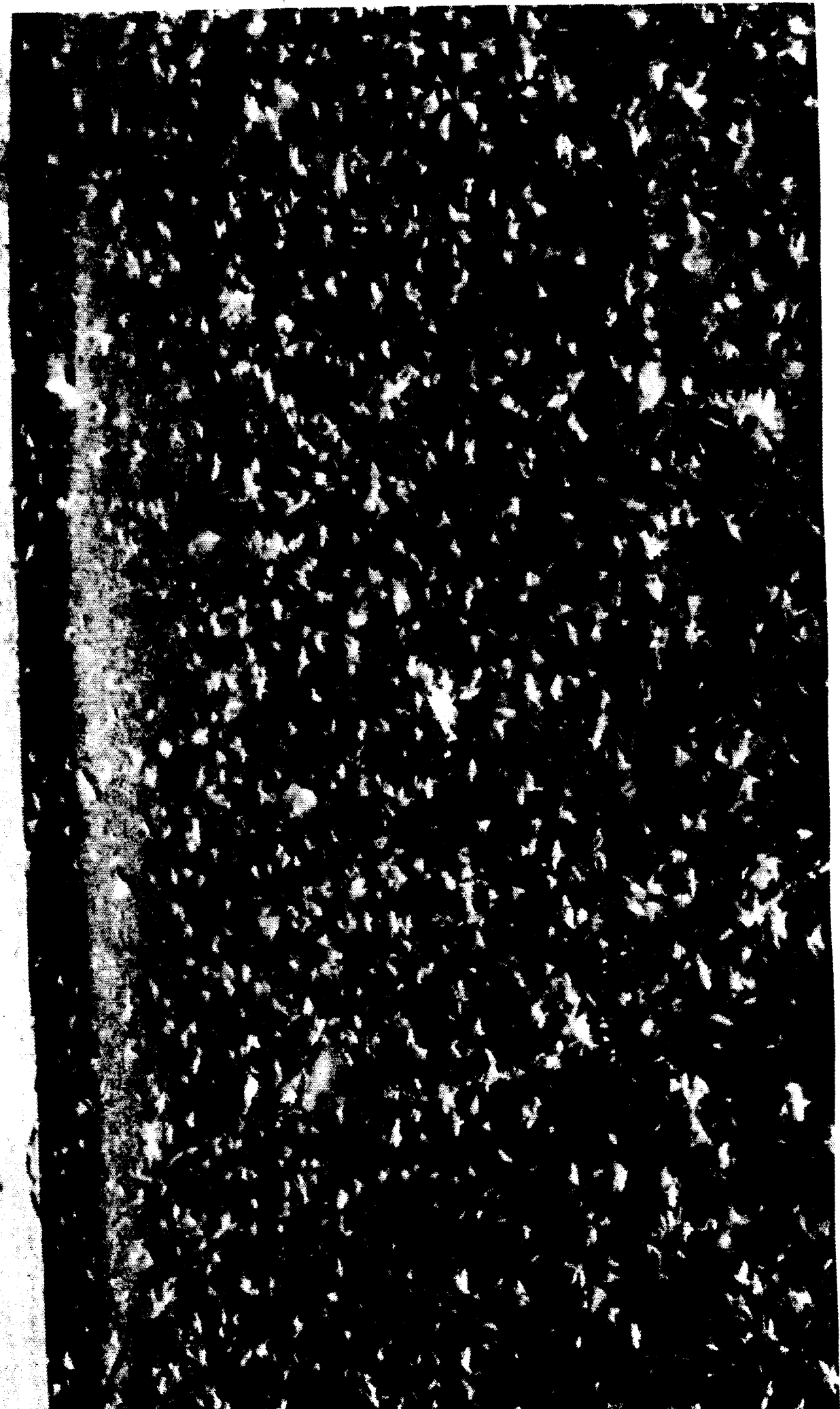


EXHIBIT #4

DATE 7.10.11.1987

HB 457

Ref. 3600.000001



I am Carol Mosher, representing the Montana CattleWomen, the Montana Stockgrowers Association and the Montana Association of State Grazing Districts. All of these organizations are quite interested in the use of state lands, whether they are being used for livestock grazing, farming or recreation. The present crop share arrangement provides an equitable balance of lease costs between highly productive lands and lands of low productivity. If the land raises a good crop, the State will share in that good crop. If the crop, on the other hand, is a wipe-out, the State assumes their share of the wipe-out.

HB 458, on the other hand, would set an arbitrary average for the county which would have to be achieved by all lessees. Montana is a diverse state with large counties and a great variety of productivity. To saddle the person with low-quality land with the same lease cost burden of the person with high-quality land, although they are in the same county, is not fair. A good example of this is in Daniels County where the western half of the county is largely owned by the State of Montana and the east half privately owned. We can assume that the east half was homesteaded first because the land was more productive than the land on the west end. The state eventually stepped in and received title to that land under the in lieu selection program for state lands that were to be included in the Fort Peck Indian Reservation. I think anyone that has visited this particular county can attest to the fact that the eastern half of the county does have better soils and is somewhat more productive than the west half. To saddle the state lessees in Daniels County with a lease rate based on the more productive areas of the county is abominable.

According to the fiscal note that accompanies this bill, the State anticipates receiving \$10 million more dollars in revenue. This \$10 million represents a severe burden on farmers operating state land at a time when

Page 2
Carol Mosher
HB 458

they and their neighbors are going broke right and left. HB 458 should not pass.

EXHIBIT #6

DATE Feb. 11, 1987

HB 458 - Rep. Knutson

MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

I AM LUVERNE NIESKENS A LESSEE OF STATE LANDS OF DANIELS COUNTY AND A DIRECTOR OF THE DANIELS SHERIDIAN FEDERAL CREDIT UNION. FOR TWENTY-SIX YEARS. I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A FEW COMMENTS.

I OPPOSE HOUSE BILL # 458. I AM IN AGREEMENT WITH THE TESTIMONY PRESENTED BY TOM LOFTSGAARD, BOB FOEHY AND TERRY PUCKETT.

DANIELS SHERIDIAN FEDERAL CREDIT UNION, WITH ASSETS OF \$15,000,000.00 MAKES SUBSTANTIAL LOANS FOR FARM EQUIPMENT, REAL ESTATE AND FARM OPERATING LOANS. AS A DIRECTOR, IF THIS BILL PASSES I WOULD HAVE TO RECOMMEND THAT SOME OF THESE LOANS NOT BE GIVEN BECAUSE OF THE REDUCED CASH FLOW THAT WOULD RESULT BECAUSE OF HOUSE BILL 458.

THERE ARE MANY YOUNG FARMERS GETTING STARTED AND TRYING TO HOLD ON IN OUR AREA AND THIS WOULD CAUSE MUCH HARDSHIP AND PROBABLY THEIR HAVING TO QUIT FARMING. FOR THESE REASONS HOUSE BILL # 458 SHOULD BE KILLED.

Luverne Nieskens

DATE Feb. 11, 1987

HB 458 - Rep. 24m. Glaser

I'M TOM LOFTSGAARD A LESSEHOLDER AND REPRESENT THE LAND MANAGEMENT COUNCIL WHICH IS AN ORGANIZATION OF STATE LAND LEASEHOLDERS. I HAVE A STACK OF LETTERS HERE WHICH REPRESENT THE FEELINGS OF OUR MEMBERS. WE WOULD LIKE THE TESTIMONY AGAINST HOUSE BILL #458.

HOUSE BILL 458 HAS TO MANY TECHNICAL AND MECHANICAL DEFECTS. FIRST A COUNTY AVERAGE IS NOT A TRUE AVERAGE OF INDIVIDUAL FARMS AND FARMERS. FEDERAL CROP INSURANCE IS A MORE TRUE AVERAGE AND PROVEN INDIVIDUAL YIELDS. WHICH REFLECTS MANY RISK FACTORS THAT THE COUNTY AVERAGE DOES NOT.

SECOND AN AVERAGE PRICE IS ALSO VERY DECEIVING. IN NORTH EAST MONTANA WE HAVE THE HIGHEST FREIGHT RATES IN THE STATE. THERE ARE EVEN INEQUITIES IN FREIGHT RATES FROM ONE END OF THE COUNTY TO THE OTHER.

THIRD. THERE IS NO PROVISION FOR ALTERNATE CROPS WHICH ARE SEEDED TO REDUCE EROSION. THESE CROPS HAVE NO COUNTY AVERAGE OR AVERAGE PRICES. EXAMPLES ARE: SPELTZ, RYE SAFFLOWER AND ETC.

FOURTH MOST OF THIS LAND IS FARMED UNDER FEDERAL FARM PROGRAM AND NO STIPULATION IS MADE FOR THE GOVERNMENT PAYMENTS. TRADITIONALLY UNDER A CASH LEASE THE LESSEE RECEIVES ALL GOVERNMENT PAYMENTS. ALSO SOME OF THIS LAND WAS ENTERED INTO THE CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM. HOW WILL THIS BILL AFFECT THOSE CONTRACTS?

FISCAL NOTE BD15 IS A VERY INEQUITABLE COMPARISON. REVENUES WERE ATTAINED FROM 1985. ONE OF THE POOREST CROP YEARS IN MONTANA HISTORY. WHY WERE THESE FIGURES USED FOR A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS? WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE DEPT. IS HAVING PROBLEMS RECEIVING THE SPECIFIED CROP SHARE. WE FEEL THAT THE DEPT OF STATE LANDS SHOULD DO A BETTER JOB IN POLICING THOSE AREAS WHERE THEY FEEL THERE ARE PROBLEMS. THE CURRENT LEASE AGREEMENT PROVIDES ADEQUATE AUTHORITY TO CHECK THOSE AREAS.

23.79 % OF DANIELS COUNTY IS STATELAND. OF THIS LAND 101,000ACRES ARE FARMED.
THIS IS 18% OF THE TOTAL STATE OWNED CROPLAND. IF THIS BILL IS GOING TO INCREASE
REVENUE TO THE STATE BY TEN MILLION DOLLARS WE ASSUME WE WILL NEED TO PAY 1.8
MILLION MORE IN RENT. WE CANNOT AFFORD THIS.

FINALLY WE BELIEVE THIS PROPOSED LEGESLATION GIVES THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE LANDS
TOO MUCH LIBERTY TO INTERPERT THIS BILL IN ANY MANNER THEY SEE FIT.

THANK YOU

Thomas Loftsgaard

Agriculture, Livestock & Irrigation:

Duane Compton Chairman:

I Am definitely AGAINST HB 458.

I Feel we have been equally FAIR in reporting our crop shares in Daniels County. Maybe the debate should be on the AREAS where the STATE LAND Dept. Feels it is not getting its CORRECT SHARE.

Using 1985 yields WAS poor judgement Also, AS this WAS the poorest crop STATE wide. There must be other WAYS OF RAISING REVENUES besides this method.

this Bill does NOT seem very well WRITTEN TO solve the problems.

John Richardson

2-9-87

AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK IRRIGATION COMMITTEE
MONTANA STATE LEGISLATURE,
CAPITOL STATION
HELENA, MT.

DEAR CHAIRMAN COMPTON:

I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS MY DESIRE TO
KILL HB 458. THE BILL IS INCONCLUSIVE AND
DOES NOT ANSWER MANY QUESTIONS IN OUR EXTENSIVE
STATELAND AREA.

1. WHO RECEIVES GOVT PAYMENT (ie deficiency, diversion)

2. DOES THIS BILL ~~END~~ MEAN ALL FARMLAND OR
JUST SEEDED ACRES

3. IT WOULD BE FINANCIALLY DEVASTATING TO DANIELS
COUNTY BECAUSE OF ~~OUR~~ HAVING 24% STATE LAND

4. WE ~~ARE~~ HAVE NOT HAD AN AVERAGE CROP
SINCE 1979, OUR 3 YR. YIELD ASCS IS 2060,
AND WE HAVE NOT EVEN COME CLOSE TO
AVERAGING IT.

5. HOW DO YOU ~~DIFFERENT~~ JUSTIFY THIS BILL
WHEN STATELAND IS OFTEN GOOD AND BAD
IN THE SAME TRACT. ~~ONE END~~

THERE IS NO NEED TO CURE OUR STATE'S
FINANCIAL PROBLEMS BY TAKING ADDITIONAL
MONIES FROM THE DEPRESSED FARM ECONOMY.
I BELIEVE THERE ARE MANY OTHER WAYS
TO CURE THE PROBLEM, NAMELY BY REDUCING
FURTHER SPENDING. PLEASE ~~FILE~~ REGISTER
MY DISPLEASURE WITH HB. 458 TO THE REST
OF YOUR COMMITTEE.

Sincerely,

Steve Carney
A STATE LEASEE
SCOBAY, MT.
DANIELS COUNTY

WITNESS STATEMENT

69 letter
opposing HB458

NAME WARD JOEL JACKSON BILL NO. 458
 ADDRESS Box 174 Harrison, Mo. 59730 DATE 2-11-87
 WHOM DO YOU REPRESENT? JACKSON RANCH & WILLOW CREEK STOCKING ASSOC.
 SUPPORT _____ OPPOSE X AMEND _____

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH SECRETARY.

Comments:

The state land in our county is mostly that
 that the state land dept. foreclosed on during the 1930s.
 It is land far below average quality county wide.

February 9, 1987

Agriculture, Livestock & Irrigation Committee
Helena, Mt.

ATTENTION: Mr. Duane Compton, Chairman

Dear Sir:

We are opposed to House Bill 458. We feel it would kill an already choking industry, especially in our county, Daniels County. We suggest the legislature find an alternative to collecting from farmers who are underreporting. Those of us who are reporting properly are being punished.

Once again, we are OPPOSED to House Bill 458!

Thank You,

Bruce: Lisa Dufkars

Sen. Del.

Peeleress, Mt. 59253

Members of Agriculture, Livestock, & Irrigation Committee,

I am opposed to H.B. 458 and feel it should be pulled in committee. There are too many unanswered questions as to what to do with government payments, what the average price of grain should be, if it should be state owned, county owned or none. There are also questions as to how the bill will affect the conservation reserve program. There are too many loop-holes and unanswered questions from the bill to pass.

Daryl Filadaga

Agricultural, Livestock & Poultry Committee

Mr. Irene Compton Chairman;

I would like you to know I am opposed to
House bill # 458. I would also ask that you kill this
bill in committee as there are too many loopholes in this bill.

Respectfully yours
Gary Finkbeiner

AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

RE House Bill 4158

Dear Chairman Compton:

I do believe that this bill would create severe economic hardships to the farmers of the state of Montana.

This Bill has to be thought through more thoroughly as many questions are left unanswered,

1. Who receives Government payments?
2. the economic status of the majority of the farmers could not stand further cash outlay

please be advised of my displeasure in House Bill

4158

Sincerely,

Craig Cromwell

Agriculture, Livestock, + Irr
Duane Compton, Chairman

Attention; Chairman Compton,

In regards to HB 458 concerning State leases, It is my opinion that the bill should be killed. I understand that the State of Montana wishes to maximize its return on its agricultural land. This bill is too vague and is misleading in its comparison of 1985 yields (the poorest crop on record in many areas) and expected return under HB 458.

I have many thoughts on the subject, but for the sake of brevity, let me just submit one alternative.

The Lessees of the land know what its capabilities are more than anyone. Many of us would gladly help you make the most of your land through marketing systems, etc.

Thanks for your consideration

Nellie Fleck

Feb. 9, 87

Agriculture, Livestock & Irrigation Committee
Helena, Montana

Attention Duane Compton, Chairman

Dear Sir,

I am opposed to H/B 458 for many reasons. First off I believe it is poorly written with many log-holes and things that are left uncovered. I believe it wouldn't be in the best interest of the state to have this bill pass, maybe in the short term, but not over the years. The last few years have been disastrous here in Eastern Montana. I believe the time is coming when we can raise a crop here again, a good crop, and when we do, I believe the state will be farther ahead than with a cash lease. The bankers here are not too receptive at lending us even more money than we are already borrowing for such a risky venture, and let me tell you, farming these days is high stake gambling. If the bankers tighten up the money supply, these

Cash leases could go down fairly low.
It could even mean some people wouldn't be able
to raise any money for a cash lease. That would
mean even more people would be leaving my county.
Remember 26% of the land here is owned by
the state. What I foresee happening is more
of the smaller family type farmers being
forced off the land to be replaced by the
large corporate farms. This doesn't do much
good for our local businesses and schools.
What the people of Montana elected you people to
do when you get up here to Helena was to get
this state revived again, we have been slowly
dying. To do this I think we have to do
positive things, not negative things, and I
believe HB 458 is a negative thing and
should be killed right here in committee.

Sincerely,

Myron Halverson

Agriculture Livestock & Irrigation Co

Compton Chairman

I am against House Bill 458
because it would work a real
hardship on farmers of lower
quality state land at a very
bad time. We are already stressed
to the very limit in this county
from drought & grasshoppers & I
think this is a very bad bill.

Ray L. Beard

Box A 20
Perkins

February 9, 1987

Agriculture, Livestock & Irrigation Committee
Helena, MT.

ATTENTION: Mr Duane Compton, Chairman

Dear Sir

I am opposed To H.B 458, at This Time.

Do To The drought That was in North Eastern MT., The
Last Few years.

Also it would be hard on Everyon's cash Flow

your's Truly

Patric Larson Ranch

By Patric & Larson

Bozeman, Mont

69253

Agriculture Livestock & Irrigation Committee
Duane Compton, Chairman.

Dear Mr. Compton:

I am very much opposed to House bill 458. I am a farmer who rents stateland, and I feel that there are too many open ends to and within House Bill 458.

Also, House Bill 458 would put more strain on my cash flow now because we farmers are going through very tough times right now.

Sincerely yours

Roger Bekker

Chairman Agricultural, Livestock
irrigation comm.

Charles, W.D. 59253

Feb 9, 1927

Mr Chairman

After reading over proposed House bill
Number 458 we wanted to let you know
we are opposed to it. The language of the
bill is very vague.

It does not take into consideration
cropping practices, rainfall, the cost of
production, the cost of shipping which affects
the price of the grain per bushel.

I also agree with Fiscal note for H.B. 458
that the long range effect would be
reduced numbers of horses which will
decrease the revenue. As the bill is
written you could not afford to farm
State Land in this area.

Sincerely yours
Lorne, Louise
Nielsen

To: Committee on Agriculture,
Livestock and Irrigation.

Re: Bill 458

Dear Sirs;

I am writing in protest to Bill 458^{H.B.}
I, and my neighbors in Daniels County,
feel that this measure, if enacted,
would be most detrimental to ourselves
and ultimately to the State of Montana.

This Bill in our opinion is not as well
thought out in its implications and
its intentions. Even if this, as near
as we can make of it, can be
feasible, it would drive many of
us out of business. I understand the
local lending agencies cannot ^{go} with
the Lessees under this agreement.

Sincerely

Bill McCarty

HB # 458 Agriculture & Livestock commi

To whom it may concern.

I seriously think this bill should be killed for simple economic reasons. For the last 10 years even at the 25% share for the state our farm has lost money or just broke even since we can't get a decent price for our wheat.

However one aspect of the bill isn't too bad. That is where you pay only on the seeded portion of the land.

Sincerely

Dwaine E. Cuckleson

For Earl B. Battleson

~~House Bill~~

HB 458

Agriculture & Livestock Comm.

To whom it may concern
I feel HB 458 should not be passed
for reasons like. The last 10 yrs it has been
hard enough to make it on the 25%, we have given
~~to~~ to the state wheat prices have not been
good enough to squash about. We have barely
broken even a ~~few~~ couple of years out of 10.
Now the state wants more because they feel
some countries have been cheating them, so they
feel to ~~the~~ make it cheap on everybody
why do we put people in the legislature if
they can't hold out without doing what,

Tom Allen

for

Debra Brackel

Peerless, Mont.

Feb. 9, 1987

Agriculture, Livestock &
Irrigation Committee

Duane Compton, Chairman:

I am apposed to House Bill 458
and I think it should be killed.

Carol H. Dighans

Peerless, Mont. 59253

In regards to Bill 458,
on State Lands, we just
couldn't afford to farm it
at that much rent. It
would amount to half of
the crop on most of our
State Land.

Charles & Laurence Foulk
by Charles Foulk

Peerless, Mont
Feb 9-1987

Agriculture Livestock
& Irrigation Committee

I am apposed to House Bill No 458
and would like to see it Killed

Emma Loftsgaard
Box 452
Peerless, Mt 59253

Agriculture Livestock & Irrigations co.

Congress, chairman.

Dear Sir!

I am against house bill 458
and I prefer this bill be killed.

Thanking you

Raymond C. Miller
Richland, Montana

Agriculture Livestock & Irrigation
Duane Compton Chairman.

Dear Sir,

Duane Compton, Chairman ag Committee.
I'm against Bill 458.

Yours truly
Marvin Drangerud
Peerless, Mont.

Perkins, M.
Feb 9, 1987

Chairman of the Agricultural,
Forest & Irrigation Comm.

Dear Chairman Compton

I am against H.B. 458
and desire to have it killed
in committee

Signed

Edmund J. Fox

Perkins M & T 5925

Pat 581

Dear Mr. Compton:

Attention: House Bill No. 458

I am strongly apposed to this bill. I am a state lease holder in Daniels County. This bill is too vague and would make farming impossible on our partial land, the way we read the bill.

Puckett & Lois, Inc.
by Terry Puckett

Duane Compton - Chairman

House Agriculture, irrigation, livestock committee

I'm definitely opposed to bill 458,

Because it goes to many jobs plus there could
be other alternatives & I would like the bill killed

Russell Solberg

Duane Compton - Chairman

House Agriculture + Irrigation Committee

I am opposed to House Bill 458

There is to many loopholes.

Terry Michel

Huene Compton Chairman
House Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Comm
I am opposed to House Bill 458

Roger Kleeman

Peerless, Mt.
59253
February 9, 1987

Committee Chairman,

I would like House Bill
number 458 killed in committee.

Jacqueline Ladager
Peerless, Mt.
59253

Peerless mt.

Feb. 9, 1987

59253

Committee Chairman,

Please Kill House Bill 458. And have the state
Land people get off there behinds and do there jobs. If they
have problem areas work on them not the people who pay
there share.

Steven Sprague

Seely mt.

Box 92.

59263

2-9-87

Agriculture, Livestock & Irrigation

Dwaine Compton, Chairman

Dear Sirs:

I am against House Bill 458 and would
like to see it killed

Sincerely
Kenneth R. Sanders
Richland Mt.

Peerless Mt.
Feb. 9, 1987

Chairman of Agricultural
Livestock & Irrigation Comm.

Dear Mr Compton,

I am against H. B. 458 and
desire to have it killed in
committee.

Signed
Boyd Grotte
Leoby. Mont
& Caroline Grotte

Agriculture, Livestock, & Irrigation Committee
Duane Compton Chairman.

Sirs.

I request house Bill 458, be Voted
Down & Killed

Belling Farms Inc
Clarence Belling V Pres.

Richland Mt. 89220

Box 227

Agriculture-Livestock and Irrigation Committee

Dewayne Compton, Chairman

I am opposed to HB 458. A fair basis for rent is a % of crop share.

With a cash rent the total risk is on the producer.

Myron A Anderson

Agriculture, Livestock & Irrigation Committee

Wayne Compton Chairman.

Attention Mr. Compton:

I am very much opposed to House Bill
458.

It is very poorly written and ineptly designed.

Sincerely,

Leonard Kersel

Box 93

Perles, Mt.

Agriculture, Livestock, & Irrigation Co.
Compton, Chairman.

Dear Sirs,

I am against House Bill 458 and would
like to see it killed.

Ronald Stansbury

Box 235

Richland, MT 59260

Scohey, Mont
Feb 9, 1987

1 Ag, Livestock & Irrigation Comm.
Duane Compton

Dear Sir:

I am strongly opposed to HB 458. And feel
it should be killed.

Sincerely,
Wayne Lowthian
Box 628
Scohey, Mont

2-9-87

Agriculture Livestock and Irrigation Committee
Duane Compton Chairman

I am apposed to House Bill
458.

Thanks

Stanley Richardson
Box 2640

Scobey, Mont 59263

Agriculture, Livestock, & Irrigation Committee
Nathan Compton Chairman.

Dear Mr. Compton:

I oppose House Bill 458.
I ^{trust} you will kill this bill! It is
very poorly written and would not be
to the best interest of people or the
State of Montana

Sincerely yours

Nesad Kancheo, Sr.

Box 947

Richland, Mt.

Friday 1-8.
Sir: I am against house

Bill 458 as there are
to many loop holes & it
just wont work.

we've had nothing ~~but~~ but
grasshoppers, drought, no rain,
or good prices.

So it would be better
to just plain kill this Bill

Regards Mark Wegmans

Box 544

Peelers, Mont.

Agriculture Livestock & Poultry Committee
Comptroller Chairman -

I oppose Bill 458 as it is unfair
and has too many loop holes and an answered
stems.

Walter Brandt
Peelase Mont.

Richland Mt.
Feb 9, 1978

Agriculture Livestock &
Migration Committee

Dear Mr. Chairman

I am opposed to House Bill
458 and think it should be
killed.

Harold Wilson

Peckham, NH 3925
Agriculture, Livestock & Irrigation
Feb 9 1987
Committee Chairman

I am against H.B. 458
and desire to have it
killed in committee.

Signed,
Lois L. Fladager

Stakey Mont
Feb. 9 - 89

Agriculture Livestock
Committee Chairman

I am against H.B. 458
And desire to have it killed
in committee

Signed
Elmer Johnson
Stakey Mont

Seabeck Mont.

Feb 9 - 1982

Agriculture Livestock + Fish Land
Chairman

I am against H B 458
and desire to have it Killed in
Committee

Signed
Ruth Halverson

ag Livestock Irrigation Comm

Parkless

Dear Mr Chairman

I would like to kill House Bill 458

Shirley Hinton
James B. Hinton

Agriculture Livestock & Irrigation committee

Dear Committee,

I oppose HB 458 and recommend
that this Bill be Killed.

Robert J. Focky

Agriculture, Livestock & Irrigation Committee

Dwane Compton Chairman

Sirs

I would like house Bill 458 voted down and killed.

Jerry H. Phillips
South Route Box 241
Richland, Montana

59260

Agriculture Livestock + Irrigation

Attention Charvin

I think $\frac{1}{4}$ share is more than fair in many areas because of very poor land. every Lease should be looked at different. We have some fair land and some very poor land.

I think you should have a better Marketing system for your share and you would do a lot better.

Leo Tumbal

Ag Livestock Legislation Comm

Dear Mr Chairman

I would like to kill House Bill 45

Thomas W. Handy

Agriculture, Livestock & Irrigation Co.
Duane Compton, Chairman
Room # 317

Dear Sir

I am against House Bill 458
because of the poor timing and poor
conditions at this time.

yours truly,

Helmut Staunbein

Box 237

Richland, Mont. 59260

Feb 9, 1987

Agriculture Livestock + Druggation Comm.

Quane Compton Chairman

I am opposed to H. Bill 458

As to the sandy condition of my Land I can
not afford a cash Lease

John Leary

Feb. 9, 198

Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Committee.
Ivan Compton, Chairman,

Mr. Compton,

After a lot of discussion at a public meeting, I feel that the HB 458 is a poor bill and wish to have it killed. There are too many unanswered questions and loopholes for a definite and good bill.

Signed,

Wayne Solberg, Inc.
Wayne A. Solberg, pres.

Feb 9, 1987

Agriculture Livestock & Irrigation Comm.

Compton Chairman

I am opposed to HB 458. I

believed it is extremely poorly written
giving the Dept. of State Lands
management total liberty to
interpret this bill in any manner
they see fit.

Stuart R. Shyistad

Perkins, Mr
Feb, 9. 1987

Chairman of Agricultural
Livestock's Irrigation Comm.

Dear Mr Compton

I am against H.B. 458 and
desire to have it killed in
Committee.

Signed
George Ernest
Perkins, Mont.

Agriculture Livestock & Irrigation Feb. 9, 1981

Dear Sir

Duane Compton Chairman Ag. Comm.

I am against House Bill 458

The production figures there making is way
off the track

I support Tom Loftsguard as my rep.

Yours Truly

Hall Farms Inc.

Albert F. Hall Jr. Pres

Box 75

Richland, Mont.

59260

Ph 406-724-3296

Agriculture Livestock & Irrigation (Feb 9, 1957)
Helena, MT

Deane Compton:

Chairman of ag Comm. am against
House Bill #458. according to my knowledge
of the bill or rather Mr. Glaser's proposal,
the State is not getting a fair return on
their land in western part of State, I suggest
getting on their case.

Butte Valley Farm Inc.
v.R. R.P. Jones
Peeler, MT 59253

Peelers, Mt.
Febr. 9-87

Agriculture, Surveyors &
Irrigation Committee.
Sioux County, Chs.

re: HB 458

I feel this Bill is unfair, poorly
written and would be hard to
administer. This Bill should be
killed in Committee

I think we could come up with
something more agreeable to both
State Lands Dept and Lesson.

Yours
Clark A. James
Peelers, Mt.

Richland M
Feb 9, 1978

Agriculture Livestock &
Irrigation Committee

Dear Mr. Chairman

I am opposed to House Bill
458 and think it should be killed

Phil Thurn
Richland Mont

Richland Mt.
Feb 9. 1998

Agriculture Livestock &
Irrigation Committee

Dear Mr. Chairman

I am opposed to House Bill
458 and think that it should be
killed

Harold Bondy
Richland Mont

Reckland M.
Feb 9. 1978

Agriculture Livestock &
Irrigation Committee

Dear Mr. Chairman

I am opposed to House Bill
458 and think it should be
Killed

Lorraine Thieview
Reckland Mf.

Puehland, Mt
February 9, 1987

Agriculture, Livestock +
Irrigation Committee.

Duane Compton Chairman,

Dear Mr Chairman,

I oppose House Bill No 458
very strongly and feel it should be killed

Mary Nelson

Richland, MT
February 9, 198.

Agriculture, Livestock &
Irrigation Committee
Deane Compton Chairman

Dear Mr Chairman,

I oppose House Bill No 458
Very strongly and feel it should
be killed.

Roy Nelson

February 9, 1987

Agriculture, Livestock &
Irrigation Committee,

C/o Duane Compton,

This is to let you know that I am
opposed to House Bill 458.

Glenn H. Stohl

Box 65

Richland Mont.

59260

Peelers, Mont.
Feb. 9, 1984

Chairman of Agricultural,
Penistock Irrigation Comm.

Dear Mr. Compton.

I am against H. B. 458 and
desire to have it killed in
Committee.

Signed
Arthur J. Bernier

Agriculture Livestock
Committee chairman

Feb 9, 1987

Scobey MT

I am against the House bill 458
+ I want it killed in committee

Signed
Lewne Levang

Peerless mont.

2/9/87

Dear Mr. Chairman

I would like house bill 458
killed

Gladys Hereford Ranch

To Whom it May Concern HB 458

HB 458 is coming at a Bad Time for Farmers in Daniels County. This Bill That is sponsored by William Claser's To stop some farmers from under reporting has ~~so~~ many holes. The main problem That I can see is That They do not consider That all farmland is good enough To be cropped constantly. Understandably you want To ~~consider~~ redeem some of the money from deficiency payments but have you ever considered what would happen if the ~~diff~~ payment was lost The farmers would end up paying at least 50% on summer fallowed land

Sincerely
Dave S. Cornfield

February 9, 1987

Agriculture, Livestock &
Irrigation Committee
% Duane Compton,

This letter is to let you know
that I am opposed to House Bill No. 450

Yours Truly
William Ward
Rockland ME 59260
BX 87

February 9, 1987

Agriculture, Livestock &
Irrigation Committee
c/o Duane Compton, Chairman,

this is to let you know that I am
opposed to House Bill 458.

Carol Louhy
Peckless, MT
59253

Feb. 9, 1987

Agriculture Livestock & Irrigation Committee
Duane Compton Chairman

Re: HB # 458

Dear Mr. Chairman,

We oppose House Bill 458 and feel it should be killed in Committee because it is too vague, is not equitable, and does not address the real problem.

Carol Jean Fladager
Russell M. Fladager

for Fladager Enterprises, Inc.
Peerless, MT

VISITORS' REGISTER

COMMITTEE

BILL NO.

HR 458

DATE

February 11, 1987

SPONSOR

Rep William Glasser

NAME (please print)	REPRESENTING	SUPPORT	OPPOSE
CAROL MOSHER	MT. STOCKGROWERS ASSOC MT. CATTLE WOMEN MT. STATE GRAZING ASSOC		X
LORNA FRANK	MT. FARM BUREAU		X
Robert J Fouhy	Farm Land Management Council		X
Terry Puckett	Farm Land Management Council		X
Louise Nieskens	Leese		X
Dorthea Puckett	Farm Land Management Council		X
Kan Norrberg	WIFE		X
Michael E. Fouch	State Land Lease Ernest R. Fouch		X
Dennis H. Fouch			X
Annella Fouch	Maryall Leese		X
Dennis Hammer	Dept of State Lands		
Kelly Blake	Dept of State Lands		
Thomas L. Fouch	Leese		X
Frederick Nieskens	Leese		X
WARR JACKSON	WILLOW CREEK Stockmen's Assoc.		X

IF YOU CARE TO WRITE COMMENTS, ASK SECRETARY FOR WITNESS STATEMENT FORM.

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH SECRETARY.