

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 24

Introduced by Hibbard, et al.

3/12 Introduced
3/12 Referred to Fish & Game
3/12 First Reading
3/16 Hearing
3/17 Committee Report--Bill Passed as Amended
3/23 2nd Reading Passed
3/24 3rd Reading Passed

Transmitted to Senate
3/29 First Reading
3/29 Referred to Fish & Game
4/06 Hearing
4/07 Committee Report--Bill Concurred
4/08 2nd Reading Concurred
4/12 3rd Reading Concurred

Returned to House
4/20 Signed by Speaker
4/21 Signed by President
4/23 Filed with Secretary of State

1 Howe JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 24
 2 INTRODUCED BY Hillard Ream Swanson Mont. Fish & Game
 3 BY REQUEST OF THE HOUSE FISH AND GAME COMMITTEE CRR

4
 5 A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF
 6 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA URGING LANDOWNERS,
 7 OUTFITTERS, THE SPORTING COMMUNITY, AND THE PUBLIC TO WORK
 8 TOGETHER TO ADDRESS COMMON GOALS THAT WILL MUTUALLY BENEFIT
 9 THE INTERESTS OF ALL PARTIES AS WELL AS THE INTERESTS OF
 10 MONTANA WILDLIFE RESOURCES; AND REQUESTING THAT THESE
 11 EFFORTS BE COORDINATED THROUGH THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR.

12
 13 WHEREAS, landowner/outfitter/sportsperson relations have
 14 become increasingly strained over the past several years,
 15 leading to increased polarization between the groups; and

16 WHEREAS, landowners feel victimized and helpless to
 17 control increasing game populations and feel that their
 18 contributions to wildlife habitat are overlooked or
 19 insufficiently acknowledged; and

20 WHEREAS, sportspersons resent diminishing access to
 21 private and public land for hunting opportunities and
 22 increasingly view commercialization as a threat to the
 23 long-term viability of wildlife management and our hunting
 24 heritage; and

25 WHEREAS, there is growing frustration among the sporting

1 public concerning the outfitter industry and frustration
 2 within the industry regarding how the industry is perceived;
 3 and

4 WHEREAS, proposals presented to the 53rd Legislature
 5 have been largely one-sided, with little sensitivity to
 6 other groups with equal interest in wildlife resources; and

7 WHEREAS, this approach has intensified polarization,
 8 rather than being conducive to lasting solutions; and

9 WHEREAS, many of these matters involve complex,
 10 emotional, and philosophical issues that do not easily lend
 11 themselves to legislative solutions.

12
 13 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE
 14 OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

15 That landowners, outfitters, the sporting community, and
 16 the public be strongly urged to work together to address
 17 these issues in a sustained, cooperative, and positive
 18 manner and to mitigate the tension arising from polarization
 19 by:

20 (1) recognizing the contributions of:

21 (a) private landowners, who provide wildlife habitat
 22 and hunting opportunities;

23 (b) the sporting community, which provides financial
 24 and political support for sound wildlife management; and

25 (c) the outfitting industry, which provides a valid

1 service and is an important industry in Montana; and
2 (2) defining common goals, including but not limited
3 to:
4 (a) achieving optimum hunter access;
5 (b) protecting wildlife habitat;
6 (c) minimizing impacts on and inconvenience to
7 landowners;
8 (d) encouraging the continuance of a viable outfitting
9 industry; and
10 (e) providing additional tangible benefits to
11 landowners who allow hunter access.
12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Office of the Governor
13 be requested to coordinate a sustained, ongoing, cooperative
14 effort to address these issues by establishing statewide,
15 regional, and local groups to develop mutually satisfactory
16 solutions that will preserve Montana's hunting and wildlife
17 heritage.

-End-

APPROVED BY COMM.
ON FISH AND GAME

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 24

INTRODUCED BY HIBBARD, REAM, SWANSON, ELLIOTT, FOSTER,

M. HANSON, KNOX, ORR

BY REQUEST OF THE HOUSE FISH AND GAME COMMITTEE

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA URGING LANDOWNERS, OUTFITTERS, THE SPORTING COMMUNITY, AND THE PUBLIC TO WORK TOGETHER TO ADDRESS COMMON GOALS THAT WILL MUTUALLY BENEFIT THE INTERESTS OF ALL PARTIES AS WELL AS THE INTERESTS OF MONTANA WILDLIFE RESOURCES; AND REQUESTING THAT THESE EFFORTS BE COORDINATED THROUGH THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR.

WHEREAS, landowner/outfitter/sportsperson relations have become increasingly strained over the past several years, leading to increased polarization between the groups; and

WHEREAS, landowners feel victimized and helpless to control increasing game populations and feel that their contributions to wildlife habitat are overlooked or insufficiently acknowledged; and

WHEREAS, sportspersons resent diminishing access to private and public land for hunting opportunities and increasingly view commercialization as a threat to the long-term viability of wildlife management and our hunting heritage; and

WHEREAS, there is growing frustration among the sporting public concerning the outfitter industry and frustration within the industry regarding how the industry is perceived; and

WHEREAS, proposals presented to the 53rd Legislature have been largely one-sided, with little sensitivity to other groups with equal interest in wildlife resources; and

WHEREAS, this approach has intensified polarization, rather than being conducive to lasting solutions; and

WHEREAS, many of these matters involve complex, emotional, and philosophical issues that do not easily lend themselves to legislative solutions.

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

That landowners, outfitters, the sporting community, and the public be strongly urged to work together to address these issues in a sustained, cooperative, and positive manner and to mitigate the tension arising from polarization by:

(1) recognizing the contributions of:

(a) private landowners, who provide wildlife habitat and hunting opportunities;

(b) the sporting community, which provides financial and political support for sound wildlife management; and

(c) the outfitting industry, which provides a valid service and is an important industry in Montana; and

(2) defining common goals, including but not limited to:

(a) achieving optimum hunter access;

(b) protecting wildlife habitat;

(c) minimizing impacts on and inconvenience to landowners;

(d) encouraging the continuance of a viable outfitting industry; and

(e) providing additional tangible benefits to landowners who allow hunter access.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Office of the Governor, THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE, AND PARKS, be requested to coordinate a sustained, ongoing, cooperative effort to address these issues by establishing statewide, regional, and local groups to develop mutually satisfactory solutions that will preserve Montana's hunting and wildlife heritage. THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE, AND PARKS IS ENCOURAGED TO PROVIDE ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANCE AS NECESSARY TO ENHANCE THE COOPERATIVE EFFORT.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT SOLUTIONS DEVELOPED BY STATEWIDE, REGIONAL, AND LOCAL GROUPS BE REPORTED TO FUTURE LEGISLATURES AND THAT LEGISLATION INTRODUCED BY ANY OF THESE GROUPS REFLECT THE MUTUAL INTERESTS OF LANDOWNERS,

OUTFITTERS, AND THE SPORTING COMMUNITY.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT THE SECRETARY OF STATE SEND COPIES OF THIS RESOLUTION TO ANY SPORTING, LANDOWNER, PUBLIC ACCESS, AGRICULTURAL, OUTFITTER, OR OTHER GROUP OR ORGANIZATION THAT IS INTERESTED OR INVOLVED IN THE ISSUES OUTLINED IN THIS RESOLUTION, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO THE MONTANA WILDLIFE FEDERATION, MONTANA STOCKGROWERS ASSOCIATION, MONTANA WOOL GROWERS ASSOCIATION, MONTANA FARM BUREAU, MONTANA OUTFITTERS AND GUIDES ASSOCIATION, MONTANA AUDUBON COUNCIL, MONTANA TROUT UNLIMITED, ROCKY MOUNTAIN ELK FOUNDATION, MONTANANS FOR MULTIPLE-USE, AND NORTHERN PLAINS RESOURCE COUNCIL, FOR INCLUSION IN THEIR RESPECTIVE NEWSLETTERS.

-End-

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-End-