

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 21

Introduced by Klampe

2/15	Introduced
2/15	Referred to Agriculture, Livestock & Irrigation
2/15	First Reading
2/19	Hearing
2/19	Tabled in Committee

1 Sench JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 21  
2 INTRODUCED BY Sench  
3  
4 A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF  
5 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA URGING THE  
6 DEPARTMENT OF STATE LANDS TO ASSESS THE ENVIRONMENTAL  
7 EFFECTS OF GRANTING A STATE GRAZING LEASE THAT WOULD ALLOW  
8 THE GRAZING OF DOMESTIC SHEEP IN PROXIMITY TO WILD BIGHORN  
9 SHEEP IF THE POTENTIAL FOR TRANSMITTAL OF DISEASE OR  
10 PARASITES BETWEEN THE DOMESTIC AND WILD SHEEP EXISTS.

11  
12 WHEREAS, scientific evidence indicates some potential  
13 for transmittal of disease or parasites between domestic  
14 sheep and wild bighorn sheep; and

15 WHEREAS, it is in the interests of Montanans to protect  
16 both the wildlife resources and the livestock industry in  
17 this state; and

18 WHEREAS, the grazing of domestic sheep on certain state  
19 lands in proximity to wild bighorn sheep habitat could  
20 increase the potential for contamination or infection  
21 between domestic and wild sheep; and

22 WHEREAS, an environmental assessment of state lands  
23 grazing practices involving domestic sheep could address and  
24 mitigate potential adverse effects on wild bighorn sheep  
25 populations; and

1 WHEREAS, public involvement in the assessment process  
2 and consideration by the Board of Land Commissioners are  
3 necessary to fully address the effects of grazing domestic  
4 sheep on state lands.

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

8 That the Department of State Lands be strongly urged to  
9 conduct an environmental assessment of state lands grazing  
10 practices that involve domestic sheep to consider the  
11 potential for transmittal of disease or parasites between  
12 the domestic sheep and any wild bighorn sheep in proximity  
13 to the state grazing lease.

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Department of State  
15 Lands consult the Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks  
16 when conducting the environmental assessment in order to  
17 determine whether the potential for contamination or  
18 infection between domestic sheep and wild bighorn sheep  
19 exists.

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the public be involved in  
21 the assessment process, to the greatest extent possible,  
22 through open public hearings.

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Land  
24 Commissioners be urged to consider the assessment results,  
25 as well as concerns of the public, in determining whether to

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1 grant a state grazing lease for domestic sheep.

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