

From: Kristina Boyd

Subject: Opposition to MT HB 161

Date: January 21, 2019 at 4:17:50 PM MST

To: bob.brown@mtleg.gov

Cc: Caroline Murphy

Dear Representative Brown,

The Northwest Section of The Wildlife Society is writing to express opposition to House Bill (HB) 161, which would reduce the effectiveness of Montana's Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks in making appropriate and sustainable management decisions regarding public fish and wildlife resources in partnership with the citizens of Montana.

The Wildlife Society (<http://wildlife.org>) is an organization representing over 10,000 wildlife professionals across the United States, Canada, Mexico, and worldwide. The Northwest Section of The Wildlife Society represents members within the states of Montana, Idaho, Washington, Oregon, and Alaska. As wildlife scientists, analysts, managers, and educators, our members support science-based decision making in wildlife management. Modern, fact-based wildlife and fisheries management, for which the United States is acknowledged as a world leader, draws on evidence from the systematic approaches of many scientific fields. These include, but are not restricted to, the science of biology, ecology, decision making, and the many social sciences that lie within the human dimensions.

Science reveals facts. The objective collection and scientific analysis of information on public natural resources, their use, and stakeholders' attitudes reveals the critical facts upon which science-based management decisions can be made. Both the natural and social sciences are critical components of successful fish and wildlife management for current and future generations of stakeholders.

The Northwest Section of The Wildlife Society sincerely hopes that you, as of Chairman of the Montana House Fish, Wildlife and Parks Committee, reject HB 161 in favor of supporting your constituents' inclusion in the science-based management process of their public natural resources.

Sincerely,

Kristina Boyd

President

Northwest Section of The Wildlife Society

M.S., Certified Wildlife Biologist®

(406) 890-4353