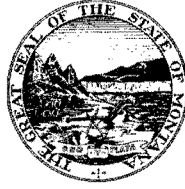


OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF MONTANA

BRIAN SCHWEITZER
GOVERNOR



JOHN BOHLINGER
LT. GOVERNOR

April 21, 2011

The Honorable Jim Peterson
President of the Senate
State Capitol
Helena, MT 59620

Dear President Peterson:

In accordance with the power vested in me as Governor by the Constitution and the laws of the State of Montana, I hereby return with amendments Senate Bill No. 174 (SB 174), **"AN ACT PROHIBITING THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE, AND PARKS FROM EXPENDING ANY FUNDS ON THE RELOCATION OR TRANSPLANTATION OF WILD BUFFALO OR BISON ON THE SPOTTED DOG WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA; AMENDING SECTION 87-1-201, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE."**

My proposed amendments to SB 174 prohibit the relocation of bison to the Spotted Dog Wildlife Management Areas unless three conditions first are met: a MEPA analysis is conducted, the Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks prepares a management plan for the relocation, and the proposal is presented at a minimum of two public hearings, each of which would have to be held within a 50 mile radius of the management area.

I respectfully ask for your concurrence in my proposed amendments.

Sincerely,


BRIAN SCHWEITZER
GOVERNOR

cc: Legislative Services Division

Amendments to Senate Bill No. 174
Reference Copy

Requested by the Governor

For the Senate Committee of the Whole

Prepared by Todd Everts
April 21, 2011 (1:51pm)

1. Title, line 6.

Following: "AREA"

Insert: "UNLESS CERTAIN CONDITIONS ARE MET"

2. Page 3, line 6.

Following: "area"

Insert: "unless the department first:

(a) conducts an analysis under the Montana Environmental Policy Act provided for in Title 75, chapter 1, parts 1 through 3;

(b) prepares a management plan for the relocation or transplplantation; and

(c) conducts at least two public hearings on the proposal, each of which must be held in a community that is located within 50 miles of the management area"

- END -