

Senate Bill SB 267 An Act Allowing for the Reimbursement of Cost Incurred While Harvesting Wolves Sen. Bob Brown (R)

February 25, 2021

Chairmen Hinebauch, Vice Chairs and Committee Members,

Senate Bill SB 267 is wrong for Montana and sends the message that we don't want wolves and only require elk and other ungulates. As the nation and parts of the world watch, we are at a crossroads. To support SB 267, we agree that it's acceptable to kill wolves and other wildlife in the name of fun and for financial gain. While the sporting community slowly slides down the slope of setting the standard of ethical hunter and trapping behavior.

Senate Bill SB 267 is nothing short of a "**Bounty Bill**." This bill will erode sound scientific management of wildlife and fair chase. Damaging the Public Trust doctrine and by "Commercializing" wolves negate the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation. Wolves of the Rockies believe that once the hunting and trapping community embraces a Bounty, it will lead to the demise of a balanced, properly functioning ecosystem, all for a minority of special interest groups.

Reason to oppose SB 267

- 1. Commercializes Wildlife.
- 2. Crosses the Ethical line of Fair Chase.
- 3. This will encourage Market Hunting.
- 4. Using Private Funding only Privatize Wildlife Management.
- 5. Will further damage the Public Perception of Hunting & Trapping.
- 6. Will Hurt the Montana Tourism Industry.

As stated above, we are at a crossroads. Do we accelerate the demise of ethics and fair chase for a few individuals, or do we uphold Montana Heritage & Tradition of ethical Fair Chase Hunting of Wildlife?

On behalf of our 185,000 supporters and Followers, Many of whom call Montana Home; we STRONGLY encourage you to oppose SB 267. It's bad for Sportsmen and women it's bad for Montana.

Marc Cooke President Wolves of the Rockies Stevensville, Montana