

March 18, 2025

Montana State Senate
1301 E. Sixth Ave.
Helena, MT 59601

RE: Hunters, Landowners, Outfitters, & Producers Oppose SB 307

Dear President Regier, Majority Leader McGillvray and Minority Leader Flowers:

We write in opposition to SB 307, a bill that would unnecessarily reallocate recreational marijuana excise tax dollars away from the Habitat Montana, State Parks and Trails, and nongame wildlife programs. We respectfully request that your body oppose or amend SB 307 to continue allocating “20% [of cannabis excise revenue] to the credit of the department of fish, wildlife, and parks to be used solely as funding for wildlife habitat in the same manner as funding generated under 87-1-242(3) and used pursuant to 87-1-209.”

Over the next two years, SB 307 would also eliminate more than \$12 million in funding for state parks and trails, non-game wildlife conservation, and recreational facilities. We respectfully request that your body oppose or amend SB 307 to continue funding these critical priorities.

The existing statute that SB 307 would alter provides a secure source of permanent, stable funding for conservation in our state, including land acquisitions and easements that improve wildlife habitat, fisheries and clean water, state parks, trails, public access, and non-game wildlife conservation. These funds also provide critical matching dollars for securing federal, corporate, and philanthropic support for projects with multiplicative benefits – like the Big Snowies acquisition, or the proposed second phase of the Montana Great Outdoors Conservation Project which would ensure nearly 53,000 acres of private timberland in Northwest Montana remain working lands that are open to public access. Additionally, Montana’s Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks is working to aggressively increase their 30- and 40-year habitat leasing work.

As we strive to meet these obligations in partnership with the agency, Montana must be prepared for land appraisal costs to continue to climb. Funding from recreational marijuana excise taxes will help meet demand for these transactions.

We respectfully request that you oppose or amend SB 307 to honor the existing funding allocation for Habitat Montana and other wildlife conservation and outdoor recreation priorities.

Sincerely,

Anaconda Sportsmen's Club
Ducks Unlimited
Flathead Wildlife, Inc.
Gallatin Wildlife Association
Great Falls Archery Club
Helena Hunters & Anglers
Hellgate Hunters & Anglers
Laurel Rod and Gun Club
Montana Chapter of Backcountry Hunters & Anglers
Montana Chapter of National Wild Turkey Federation
Montana Sportsmen Alliance
Montana Trout Unlimited
Montana Wild Sheep Foundation
Montana Wildlife Federation
Pheasants Forever
Public Land Water Access Association Inc.
Quail Forever
Ravalli County Fish & Wildlife Association
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
Trout Unlimited

CC:

Governor Greg Gianforte
Senate President Matt Regier
Senate Majority Leader Tom McGillvray
Senate Minority Leader Pat Flowers Senate
President Pro Tempore Kenneth Bogner
Speaker of the House Brandon Ler
House Majority Leader Steve Fitzpatrick
House Minority Leader Katie Sullivan
House Speaker Pro Tempore Katie Zolnikov