

MONTANA HUNTERS & ANGLERS *ACTION!*

October 24, 2011

Congressman Dennis Rehberg
2448 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC, 20515

RE: H.R. 1505

Dear Congressman Rehberg:

On behalf of the hundreds of thousands of Montanans who hunt, fish, recreate, and ranch, I write today to demand that you remove your name as a co-sponsor of H.R. 1505 and that you publicly commit to opposing this horrible piece of legislation.

H.R. 1505 is a federal Land Grab of the highest order. This bill would give unprecedented authority to the Department of Homeland Security. It effectively gives federal bureaucrats complete control over millions of acres of public land. This includes special places like the Charles M Russell and Medicine Lake National Wildlife Refuges, Glacier National Park, Kootenai, Flathead and Lewis and Clark National Forests, Great Bear and Bob Marshall Wildernesses, and hundreds of thousands of acres of Bureau of Land Management Land.

If this bill passes, 36 land conservation and management laws would be completely bypassed, making sure that Montanans would have no say over what activities Homeland Security chooses to undertake within 100 miles of the United States border.

The language of H.R. 1505, even as amended, is ominous and frightening. The amendment contained in Section (2)(d) indicating the bill should not be construed to restrict legal access gives Montanans little comfort. It is lipstick on a pig. Section 2(b)(1) of the bill still allows Homeland Security "immediate access" to public lands for a long list of uses, including:

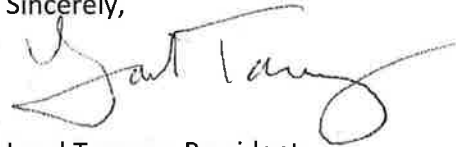
- The construction and maintenance of roads;
- Construction and maintenance of fences;
- Use of vehicles to patrol;
- Installation, maintenance, and operation of surveillance equipment and sensors;
- Use of aircraft and;
- Deployment of temporary tactical infrastructure, including forward operating bases.

Only inside the Washington, D.C., beltway could someone actually believe that these activities will not interfere with our ability to hunt, fish, hike, log or run cows on public lands. In addition, H.R. 1505 threatens an outdoor lifestyle and economic engine that contributes over \$2 billion dollars annually to the state's economy. This is no time to mess with sustainable pieces of our economy, but instead a time to double down.

All Montanans support a strong and secure border. But the answer to our border problems is not contained in H.R. 1505. Homeland Security should be working with other agencies that manage public lands. Homeland Security should be working with local and state law enforcement. Homeland Security should not be taking over wide swaths of land in the name of protecting us. In Montana, that is just not how we do things.

I sincerely hope that you will reconsider your recent actions to help push this bill through the House Natural Resources Committee and the Congress. Just like the Patriot Act and Real ID, Montanans are ill served by Washington taking more and more control over their lives and livelihoods.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Land Tawney". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Land Tawney, President
Montana Hunters & Anglers Action