

Submitter: Dave Murray  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Rules  
Measure: HJR5

My name is Dave Murray.

I started hunting as a kid in Rexford, MT at the age of 10. I was raised in a large family, eight kids total. My father was a master mechanic for 31 years. He worked on the Libby Adam project until it was finished. Montana gets harsh winters every year. During the winter the construction would shut down due to the equipment freezing up. We didn't have much growing up as kids. Most of the time we were lucky to even have anything for Christmas or our birthdays. The things we did have that kept us alive was wild game meat. My father and us older boys would hunt deer and Elk to keep our freezer full to get through the winter. I remember we had a bad year of not getting enough meat for the freezer, and there were days and weeks we only had biscuits and gravy, or peaches and bread for food. We didn't complain because that's how life is at times, you learn how to survive. I'm 65 years old. I've been hunting my entire life since I was Ten years old. I raised four girls in Wyoming. I taught all my girls how to hunt. I would pack in 20 miles on horseback and set up two wall tents. They learned real quick how to survive. I taught them how to make a shelter, how to start a fire, and how to take care of their game they shot. Since the begging of man kind, people forged and hunted to feed their family's. We only took what we need to eat and survive on. There were many years with my four girls in my camp that, that if we got what I thought was enough deer or Elk. We would head back home. This was a lesson taught to me by my dad and grandfather. I wanted them to learn it's not all about getting their animal, but what we only need to get us through the winter and summer. This is what I call managing wildlife. If this bill passes this is what will happen. I say this because I've seen it happen. Managing the wildlife is critical to the herds. If you don't manage this is what will happen. The Deer and Elk herds will start dying off due to the lack of feed. The Deer and Elk migrate from summer to winter grounds every year. In Wyoming. Some of the Deer have ear tags in them. They have different colors. The first time I saw this I asked the fish and game what it meant. They told me the tags are from different units in the state of Wyoming. We had Deer migrating over two hundred miles from Jackson hole Wyoming, to Evanston Wyoming. This was their winter range. They count the Deer to make sure they are managing the herds properly. Too many Deer in the Winter range would cause the deer to starve due to lack of feed. So what I'm trying to say to these animal activists is this. Without hunters that really are managing the herds for the fish and game. The Deer and Elk herds would die off, and then who would you blame, the fish and game or the animal activists. The only people that would be to blame is the politicians making decisions that could be devastating to the Deer and Elk only to satisfy their base. I'm sorry but that's not right and I believe you know that this bill is wrong. Thank you for your time. Sincerely, Dave Murray.