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## Committee to Upgrade Wolf Hunting

I represent the concerned ranchers and farmers that want to upgrade the current hunting regulations for wolves in Montana. We support people who want to control the growing population of wolves and speak out against animal rights activists.

In Montana, wolves killed twenty two more cattle than that of last year. Sheep fatalities from wolves were up 76% in 2009. During this year 498 sheep and 112 cattle died from wolves. Since a sheep costs \$1.80 per pound and average around 100 pounds, that's \$180 per sheep. Cattle cost approximately \$880 per cow.

On a positive note the government made \$116,883 dollars from wolf tags sold. This profit would increase if more tags could be sold the amount of wolves allowed to be killed. If we increase the number of wolves that can be killed, then we can increase the price of the tag. The more wolves killed, the fewer cattle and sheep killed would decrease rancher's losses and the government's burden to compensate them.

Some examples are:

- \$188,200 to reimburse ranchers for their livestock.
- \$116,883 made from selling wolf tags.
- 388 dogs killed in 2009
- 3.4 million dollars to manage 1645 wolves.

As shown on the list above, the wolf is a ruthless killer that devastates everything it can find. The people that protect these animals don't understand the impact the wolves have on ranches, they also think of the wolf as a pet. If we increase the number of wolves allowed to be killed than the number of animals killed by wolves decrease. The amount owed by the government would drop and the income would increase. This will still maintain wolf population, but it will control them from reproducing like rabbits.

I will support the legislation that will agree to upgrade the wolf tag to three wolves and increase the cost of the tag to twenty dollars.

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