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June 16, 2020

The Honorable John Hoeven, Chairman
Senate Committee on Indian Affairs
838 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Hoeven,

Hellgate Hunters and Anglers (HHA) is an all-volunteer Rod and Gun Conservation club based in Missoula, Montana. Founded in 2005, our mission is “to conserve Montana's wildlife, wild places, and fair-chase hunting and fishing heritage.” We represent over 400 members and supporters. Our work has ranged from volunteer landowner fencing projects, to advocating for LWCF funding to weighing in on how big game species are managed by our state wildlife management agency. We write to you today to voice our support for S.3019, Montana Water Rights Protection Act.

HHA has long supported Tribal management of the National Bison Range. In 2007, HHA first wrote a letter of support to Secretary Kempthorne outlining our support for Tribal involvement in the management of the National Bison Range under a Tribal Self-Governance agreement with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. While disappointingly this agreement never came fully to fruition and lawsuits prevailed, we are extremely pleased to see the National Bison Range management and ownership addressed in the Montana Water Rights Protection Act. Many of our members recreate, hunt and fish on Confederated Salish and Kootenai (CSKT) Tribal lands and have treasured the sporting opportunities in the Flathead Valley. We have the full trust and confidence in the CSKT to assume ownership and management of the National Bison Range.

In summary, this legislation will be good for the people of Montana. We also appreciate that our delegation members Senator Jon Tester and Senator Steve Daines, both of whom are on the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, are co-sponsors of this legislation. Thank you for the opportunity to voice our support for this bipartisan legislation.

Sincerely,

Adam Shaw
President
Hellgate Hunters and Anglers

cc: Senator Jon Tester; Senator Steve Daines