EXHIBIT 5
DATE 2/5/09
HB 317

House Bill 317
February 5, 2009
Presented by Hank Worsech
House Fish Wildlife and Parks Committee

Mr. Chairman and committee members, for the record I am Hank Worsech, License Bureau Chief , Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP). I am here in support of HB 317.

To date, we have had one individual who drew a goat license and was unable to use the license because he was deployed to Iraq during the hunting season. His goat license was returned and issued to the next person on the drawing list. His bonus points were reestablished. Unfortunately, that was all FWP could do for that individual. Under HB 317, FWP would have been able to reissue a license to that individual upon his return from his deployment.

FWP believes this is a "fair" way to handle these rare circumstances. The service member does not have to "give up" a chance to use a special license and no other hunter looses out on that opportunity, either. They simply "trade years" during which the hunting occurs.

I have talked to individuals in the military telling me they did not apply for Moose, Sheep or Goat licenses, simply because they knew they were going to be deployed and they did not want to take a chance drawing the license and not be able to use it. HB 317 would allow the FWP Commission the ability to address and correct this issue.

FWP encourages the committee to pass HB 317.

Thank you.