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## Economic Affairs Interim Committee

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### 61st Montana Legislature

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June 29, 2010

Superintendent Suzanne Lewis  
Yellowstone National Park  
Brucellosis Remote Vaccination Program for Bison DEIS Comments  
P.O. Box 168  
Yellowstone National Park, WY 82190

Dear Superintendent Lewis:

The Economic Affairs Interim Committee of the Montana Legislature, which during the interim between legislative sessions monitors the activities of the Department of Livestock among others, has been following closely the activities of the department and others related to brucellosis monitoring and vaccinations in Montana and elsewhere. In response to the request for public comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement regarding remote vaccination of bison against brucellosis, the Committee:

- endorses Alternative C, the combination of the hand vaccination at the Stephens Creek capture facility with a remote delivery vaccination strategy for all adult females.
- encourages the National Park Service to further study transmission of brucellosis to determine if the disease is spread from elk to bison or bison to elk;
- recommends close cooperation between Yellowstone National Park officials and the Montana Department of Livestock in relation to vaccinations during the Montana hazing operations in the late spring; and
- encourages a Yellowstone National Park-coordinated effort to bring the states of Wyoming, Idaho, and Montana with the U.S. Departments of Interior and Agriculture to the table to further discuss eradication of brucellosis in wildlife and not just containment through the monitoring of domestic livestock.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and for the work of the National Park Service on this difficult topic.

Sincerely,

Senator Jim Keane, Chair

Rep. Gordon Vance, Vice Chair