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April 7, 2017

Senator Steve Daines (R-MT)  
30 West 14th Street, Suite 206  
Helena, MT 59601

Dear Senator Daines:

I write on behalf of the membership of the Montana Wool Growers Association. I write regarding the recent attacks being made both in federal court and in the press regarding the use by Montana agriculture producers of M-44 ejectors.

As you know from being involved with agriculture production, the use of M-44 is a critical tool for livestock protection, particularly for use against coyotes and feral dogs. Contrary to what has been asserted by those who seek to shut all down predator management techniques by livestock owners, the use of the product is environmentally safe and the product is subject to strict review and approval by the EPA.

Based on the recent incident in Idaho where a pet dog was killed after the dog wandered onto private property, the movement to ban this livestock protection tool has picked up momentum. Montana's sheep producers recognize the unfortunate nature of this incident, but we do not see it as the basis for outlawing this product. As such, we request that you and the rest of Montana's congressional delegation vigorously oppose any efforts to outlaw the use of M-44 or any other wildlife damage management tool.

I have enclosed herewith a working paper on the use of M-44 as a predation control tool. As outlined in the paper, use of M-44, if correctly applied by the applicator, presents no risk to humans or to endangered species.

Thank you for your time and attention to this missive. And thank you for taking the time to meet with us when we were in Washington in late March. Your work on behalf of Montana's sheep industry is recognized and appreciated by the entire MWGA membership.

Sincerely,

James E. Brown, Esq.

cc: MWGA Board