

1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 18

2 INTRODUCED BY R. FARRIS-OLSEN

3
4 A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF
5 MONTANA URGING FEDERAL AND STATE AGENCIES IN WYOMING TO STOP FEEDING ELK ON
6 WINTER RANGE.

7
8 WHEREAS, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the State of Wyoming provide hay and
9 alfalfa pellets to more than 20,000 elk at 23 feeding sites in Wyoming south of Yellowstone National Park,
10 including the National Elk Refuge near Jackson Hole; and

11 WHEREAS, this practice results in artificially high populations of elk in these areas and a loss of the
12 animals' natural instincts to survive without human assistance; and

13 WHEREAS, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service acknowledges that elk congregating in these
14 unnaturally dense clusters can result in environmental damage and contamination; and

15 WHEREAS, both the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the Wyoming Game and Fish
16 Department acknowledge that the prolonged congregation of animals at these feeding sites increases the
17 probability of disease transmission, including scabies, foot rot, brucellosis, and chronic wasting disease that can
18 spread through the herds and be transmitted to other animals in the region, including in Yellowstone National
19 Park and Montana; and

20 WHEREAS, brucellosis can be transmitted to domestic livestock resulting in weight loss, loss of young,
21 infertility, and lameness with serious economic consequences for producers; and

22 WHEREAS, chronic wasting disease is a fatal neurologic disease against which elk, deer, and moose
23 have no immunity.

24
25 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
26 THE STATE OF MONTANA:

27 That the Montana Legislature urges the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the State of
28 Wyoming to stop feeding elk.

4 - END -