

RE: HB17-1141; Equal Protection From Federal Employee Personal Attack.

PamaRona <pamarona@montrose.net>

Sat 2/18/2017 8:56 AM

Inbox

To: PamaRona <pamarona@montrose.net>;



February 18, 2017

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HOUSE STATE, VETERANS, & MILITARY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

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Mike Foote, Chair: mike.foote.house@state.co.us
Susan Lontine, Vice-Chair: susan.lontine.house@state.co.us
Representative Adrienne Benavidez: adrienne.benavidez.house@state.co.us
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Representative Mike Weissman: mike.weissman.house@state.co.us
Representative Dave Williams: dave.williams.house@state.co.us

Honorable Committee Members:

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As is the case with many other rural people who are calving this time of year, it is not possible for us to testify before your committee in Denver on February 22, 2017. But we would like to make the committee aware of the dire need for **HB17-1141; Equal Protection From Federal Employee Personal Attack**. While the bill will not cure generations of abuse, the bill will go a long way in protecting citizens from the personal attacks of heavy handed government employees.

The details of our complicated issues with the Bureau of Land Management Uncompahgre Field Office personnel are not important. The fact that we have been bullied, harassed, blackmailed and threatened are widespread and ongoing is seriously important. To date, our lengthy battle with the BLM to keep the historic road open to our ranch and home has cost us \$27,000, plus all the aggravation factors that diminish our quality of life. Our dispute over personal harassment by local BLM officials has been in court in the Interior Board of Land Appeals for over two years with no resolution in sight. Videos that were previously available online of BLM employee internal commendation ceremonies including awards for positive results due to harassment of citizens have been removed: Internally, harassment of the populace is encouraged and rewarded.

BLM employee's actions aimed specifically at us affect many other landowners, ranchers, recreationalists and sportsmen not only locally, but statewide and nationally. Our County government is also a target as the BLM clamors to be at the top of the heap in a dogfight of control. As members of a County group to research roads, we found that road closures were a minor factor that revealed the larger issues of limited or non-existent access to grazing and recreation and other uses in an evident BLM effort to "make the west wild again". Once areas can be turned back to nature by disuse, they

2/18/2017

RE: HB17-1141; Equal Protection From Federal Employee... - Roni Bell Sylvester

qualify for "wilderness designation". Those lands can then be placed in a "wilderness study area" indefinitely without congressional oversight or agency or personal accountability.

The lengths BLM employees will go to in order to advance their personal agendas are limitless and pointed. Scores of people in Montrose and surrounding counties have been targeted directly. Those who are financially capable cough up tens of thousands of dollars for each battle, those who aren't fold easily under relentless unorthodox government employee pressure.

In SUWA vs. BLM, Utah Counties, et al, As Amended on Denial of Rehearing Jan. 6, 2006, the Court of appeals held that "(6) regulations proposed by BLM were not entitled to any more respect than what came from their persuasiveness;". And we hereby testify that their methods of persuasiveness are less than honorable.

Please support HB17-1141 making Government employees personally responsible for their actions.

Pam & Ron Brown

Montrose, CO

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