

Glenda Wiles

From: C. Grandstaff <grandstaff@cybernet1.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 24, 2018 7:58 AM
To: Glenda Wiles; fortherecord_@energy.senate.gov; marcie_kinzel@daines.senate.gov
Subject: Fwd: S. 2206/public comment

Senate Energy and Natural Resource Committee Members

Dear Senators:

Senator Steve Daines came back to Montana to promote S2206. He scheduled with less than 24 hour notice four meetings 2/21/18 in western Montana but cancelled the fourth in Superior MT where there are no WSAs. The other three were held in private businesses, not a public location, with a few of his motorized vehicle supporters who want five Montana WSAs released for timber harvest, mining, gas and oil exploration, and motorized travel. Daines claims these lands need timber cuts to stop wildfires even though not one of them had a fire in 2017.

Daines first meeting was in Philipsburg, MT in a brewery that turned waiting citizens away before 8 am because "Senator Daines was getting a private brewery tour." Daines then went to a local snowmobile shop where two citizens managed to get in but when they questioned the senator on when he's going to offer public meetings, Daines insulted them saying they were with green decoy groups and refused to hear them out.

Next Daines drove early to another brewery in Missoula. He left the brewery well before his scheduled meeting time and ignored constituents gathering and waiting in the frigid cold to talk with him about his bill. One lady approached his vehicle and shouted, "aren't you going to meet with us?" That is caught on a YouTube video.

A friend and I plus some 50 people were waiting in the cold at the next private location, Al's Cycling near Hamilton, MT. Without any notice of Daines being early at his meetings we found out he was already inside doing a tv interview. He left through the back door of the business, got in his waiting SUV, and drove off. None of us were able to talk with him. Daines says he is running an "open, dynamic process" and needs civil discourse but likens those who oppose his bill as far left. He refuses to meet face-to-face with his constituents. He claims tens of thousands of Montanans support his bill; that is not the case. Most Montanans oppose his bill. Daines needs to return to Montana for properly noticed meetings in public locations before this bill should be considered by your Committee. Daines refuses to support Senator Tester's bill which followed the right process and the light of day and has full support of diverse groups of Montanans. This shouldn't be about one acre of wilderness for one acre of land opened to damaging land uses when the WSAs have been protected as wilderness. This is how Daines sees it; his land values are upside down and so is his legislative process. He should start with the public at large and not round up divisive groups in a back room deal.

Please stop this terrible bill. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Marilyn Wolff
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Sent from my iPhone