For Immediate Release

Recently, the hunting community raised a number of concerns about SF 118, which authorizes the transfer or sale of landowner elk, deer, and antelope licenses. Earlier this week, representatives from the state's hunting community met with the bill's sponsor, co- sponsors and Game and Fish to better understand the sponsor's reasons for bringing the bill. The dialogue was productive, and emblematic of how we can come together in Wyoming to resolve differences and seek outcomes that benefit as many people as possible.

Wyoming's generational ranchers play a vital role in sustaining wildlife. They provide essential forage, water, cover, and the open, connected landscapes that our wildlife need to survive. They also face real challenges maintaining viable productive operations. It's imperative that landowners and hunters work together to develop new, innovative solutions to some of these challenges so Wyoming's working lands, wide open landscapes, and agriculture and hunting heritage remain intact.

We thank Senator Pearson and the co- sponsors for agreeing to lay SF 118 aside in order to foster stronger collaboration between landowners and the hunting community. This will enable us to move past the polarization of this specific issue and identify strong and lasting solutions that will benefit hunters, landowners, and most importantly–wildlife. We are committed to supporting an interim study in the Joint Agricultural Committee to find collaborative solutions to make sure ranchers stay on the land and landscapes stay intact.

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