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Statement from the Montana Stockgrowers Association regarding the Livestock Mill Levy

Mons L. Teigen

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MONTANA STOCKGROWERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

"Serving Montana's Cattle Industry Since 1884"

P. O. BOX 1679 - 7 EDWARDS STREET - PHONE 442-3420 - HELENA, MONTANA

February 2, 1972

Sterling Rygg, Chairman
Revenue and Finance Committee
Montana Constitutional Convention
State Capitol
Helena, Mont. 59601

Dear Mr. Rygg:

The following statement is submitted in support of the retention of the Livestock Mill Levy provided for in Section 9, Article XII of the Constitution which I reviewed with your committee on January 28, 1972.

The Montana Stockgrowers Association, representing approximately 5,000 cattlemen in the State of Montana, is vitally concerned with the retention of the four mill levy provided for in Section 9 of Article XII of the Constitution. The authority contained in this section of the Constitution, has made possible the financing of the Montana Livestock Commission and the Livestock Sanitary Board (now known as the Department of Livestock) since 1910.

The Constitution was amended in 1910 to make this levy possible due to a decision by the Supreme Court which stated in effect that a special livestock levy would be unconstitutional unless it was specifically authorized by the Constitution.

Montana's livestock agencies are leaders in the nation. Our brand law surpasses all others both in administrative efficiency and effectiveness. Animal health regulations have been promulgated and enforced which have rid Montana of many formerly devastating diseases, the most recent of which is brucellosis, or bangs disease, and we now find Montana certified-free with the exception of two counties.

These things all came about as a result of the interest of the livestock industry in funding this agency

Sterling Rygg, Chairman

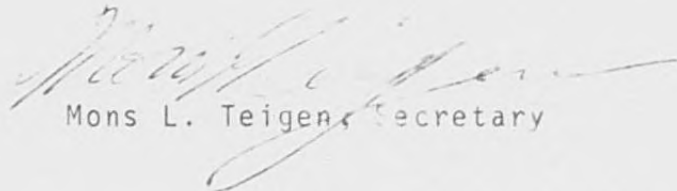
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themselves and guiding its direction over the years through bonafide livestock operators serving on the Board. We earnestly request that this arrangement be allowed to continue and we feel that using any other means of financing the agencies would be a step backward insofar as our industry is concerned.

The livestock industry is ready, willing and able to assess itself the necessary funds to support this agency and we request your honorable body to allow this arrangement to continue.

Sincerely yours,



Mons L. Teigen, Secretary

MLT:mlt