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To: [Michael Carrier](#); [Richard Hannan](#); [Theresa Rabot](#)
Cc: [Michael Thabault](#); [Chris Servheen](#)
Subject: State Meeting Conversation
Date: Wednesday, September 02, 2015 3:17:23 PM
Attachments: [GB_Framework.Sept.2015.docx](#)

Some thoughts before our call tomorrow.

First, I have attached a document the highlights the overall framework which (we believe) we have all agreed to. I'd like to walk through the document (at least the first 3 pages) with the states (hopefully) quickly to affirm we are all on the same page. If we end up spending a lot of our time arguing over this document, I don't think it will be a very productive meeting.

Page 4 is an issue specific to MT. I am hoping to have this issue worked out before the meeting and will not require further discussion.

Page 5 represents some of what could become the hardest part of the conversation – namely regulatory mechanisms. I believe we have state support for season closures when female mortality is exceeded. We do not have agreement beyond that. Noreen and I do not feel like regulatory mechanism for male and dependent young is crucial but would be nice to have. We can discuss more on the call. Also want to talk about the pros and cons of sharing this part of the document with the states at the meeting or simply discussing it.

The other main objectives of the meeting (assuming again agreement on the framework) is an agreement on what needs to be changed in the recovery plan and conservation strategy before we issue a proposed rule; a big picture agreement on what those changes need to look like; and finally, who is going to be responsible for making those changes. The other remaining issues is timeline. Noreen has committed to Dan that we will do EVERYTHING in our power to get a proposed rule published by the end of 2015. We recognize that will require a lot of things to fall in line. We are going to stress the importance of making meaningful progress with the states at this meeting and moving forward if we are going to make this deadline. The other thing it requires is agreement on making the changes that are absolutely necessary to get this moving. We have asked Chris to provide an outline of those areas of both documents that need to be updated to reflect our agreement. He is working on that now and should have that before our call tomorrow.

Lastly is the issue of the agenda. There is some confusion on who is actually developing the agenda and I am trying to sort that out...more on that tomorrow. For my own planning purposes, I am planning on arriving on the evening of the 8th and will be prepared for two full days of meetings if need be. Hopefully those of you attending can do the same.

Thanks for the continued help....look forward to our conversation tomorrow.

Matt