

April 27, 2012

Dear Sirs,

To reflect a balance of political power and social equality, I respectfully urge that CutBank, Shelly and Conrad and rural areas be put into the Urban Rural Plan. To put non-Indian concerns & interests into a district with Browning and areas West is not equal at all. Please give non-Indian people a voice too!!

Thank-you
Marilyn Swadlow
Box 344
Cut Bank, MT.

Weiss, Rachel

From: Mary Phippen [mphippen@bresnan.net]
Sent: Tuesday, April 17, 2012 3:10 PM
To: Redistricting
Subject: MT Redistricting Comments

TO: The Members of the Redistricting and Apportionment Commission

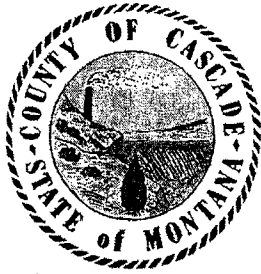
Since I am unable to attend the Public Meetings in Great Falls on April 18th and Browning on April 19th, I am conveying my comments to you via e-mail.

I urge you to allow the City of Cut Bank, Montana to remain 100% whole and not to split/divide up the City. Dividing up the City would not be fair to some of the Cut Bank citizens. The City of Cut Bank should remain 100% whole and be included with like-minded communities with similar school, hospital, oil and gas, water, sewer and other issues.

I think the current Urban/Rural plan is fair to all of the citizens of Cut Bank and implore you to allow the City of Cut Bank to remain 100% whole.

Thank you.

Mary "Marty" Phippen
134 2nd Ave. S.W.
P.O. Box 683
Cut Bank MT 59427



Commissioner Joe Briggs

jbriggs@cascadecounty.mt.gov
(406)454-6815

4/17/2012

Chairman Regnier and members of the District and Apportionment Commission
PO Box 201706
Helena, MT 59620

Chairman Regnier and Commissioners,

Thank you for serving the people of Montana in this important role and for coming to Great Falls for comment on the proposed redistricting options before you. Unfortunately, as you travel to Great Falls, I will be traveling to Billings and as such cannot deliver these comments in person.

As an elected official in Cascade County, I am keenly aware of the diverse communities that exist across our county and the difficult challenge that you face in drawing districts which do not unintentionally damage our communities and traditional neighborhoods. Ten years ago, this is unfortunately what occurred during the redistricting process; our traditional neighborhoods were split East to West with district boundaries cutting through parish districts, school boundaries, Neighborhood watch areas, Neighborhood Council Districts and distinct communities of interest.

Great Falls as a community developed originally on the East Bank of the Missouri and spread East in bursts that created large neighborhoods with common housing styles, lot sizes and socio economic conditions. Neighborhood Schools and Churches were created to serve the people of these Neighborhoods and a sense of community was created. In Great Falls, being from the Lower South Side or Lower North Side still means something as does being raised on the East Side, West Side or Riverview. These areas are all communities within the broader community of Great Falls and I would ask that to the best of your ability you restore the communities that were ignored in the last redistricting.

As I look at the maps before you, the one which most mirrors the Historical districting of Great Falls and honors the true communities of interest in Cascade County, is clearly the map proposed by the Chamber of Commerce.

The Chamber map recognizes the Neighborhood Council system within the City of Great Falls; it restores the historic connection between Black Eagle and the downtown area which prior to the last redistricting shared a House member. Additionally, the Great Falls Chamber proposal restores the integrity of the East End, while retaining the historic communities of Riverview, Fox Farm, the West Side as well as our rural areas.

To be sure, it is not possible to present a perfect plan, but based on my lifelong residency here in Cascade County coupled with my years of service as a County Commissioner, I believe the Chamber proposal best meets the criteria set forth in State law and by your Commission.

I would ask that you give strong consideration to the adoption of the proposal from the Great Falls Chamber as presented. Should other factors prevent the adoption of this plan in total, I would ask that you honor the concepts presented in the Chamber proposal; recognition of the historic development of Great Falls in large blocks from West to East, the use of Neighborhood Council Boundaries, recognition of the existing sense of neighborhoods that exist in Cascade County such as Fox Farm, the Westside, Riverview and the Sun River Valley.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony and best of luck in your deliberations.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Briggs". The signature is stylized and cursive, written over a white background.

Joe Briggs
Commissioner

Weiss, Rachel

From: Lee Hietala [hietalal@aol.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 18, 2012 11:10 AM
To: Redistricting
Subject: Fairness in redistricting

Dear Chairman Regnier,

I strongly urge you to reject maps that use political data and election results in the development of district lines for the legislature. Political parties should not manipulate boundaries to maximize the number of seats they think they can win in elections. That defeats the purpose of redistricting, which is to equalize the number of people in districts, protect minority voting rights, following existing political subdivisions and communities of interest.

The last map in Montana was developed through a heavy reliance on political data and election results. There is no other way to explain how many communities were divided, other than it served a political purpose for the Montana Democratic Party. The new map should have no resemblance to the current map, because it inconsistently ignores existing political subdivisions, communities of interest, lacks the compactness requirement and all of the other official redistricting criteria.

The commission should use the three maps developed by non-partisan legislative staff as starting points for the new map: the urban-rural, deviation and subdivision maps. The fourth map is just a slightly modified version of the map the Democrats put forward in 2000 using political data and election results. Many local communities are putting forward suggestions for their areas – please pay special attention to those.

In particular the redistricting plan for Gallatin County and surrounds is fairest in representing voters as put forth by Charlotte Mills.

Thank you for your work on building consensus throughout this process. We encourage you to reject partisan politics in the redistricting effort.

Sincerely,

Lee Hietala
216 W Hayes
Bozeman, Mt 59715

Weiss, Rachel

From: Carl Smith [dubbers54@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 18, 2012 5:01 PM
To: Redistricting
Subject: No Butte Silver Bow

Commission, to Whom It May Concern,

Please reconsider Whitehall merging with Butte Silver Bow. Butte Silver Bow will not have Whitehall in their best interest. Due to our low census in the state, we have only one representative in Congress. We say let Butte have one less legislative seat! Jefferson County needs to be heard!

Sincerely, Kathryn & Carl D. Smith

Weiss, Rachel

From: Scott, Janine
Sent: Thursday, April 19, 2012 8:32 AM
To: Redistricting
Subject: Redistricting

I live in Cut Bank, MT and feel very strongly about keeping the City of Cut Bank whole in the new redistricting plan. Also Cut Bank should be put with similar minded communities, i.e. hospitals, schools, oil and gas development, water and sewer issues. The Urban/Rural plan would best fit this area, keeping Cut Bank with communities east of us.

Janine R. Scott

Weiss, Rachel

From: robin pambrun [rpambrun@bresnan.net]
Sent: Saturday, April 21, 2012 3:41 PM
To: Redistricting
Subject: redistricting of Cut Bank

TO: The Members of the Redistricting and Apportionment Commission

I was unable to attend the Public Meetings in Great Falls on April 18th and Browning on April 19th. However, I want to express my opinion for your consideration. I urge you to allow the City of Cut Bank, Montana to remain 100% whole and not to split/divide up the City. Dividing up the City would not be fair to some of the Cut Bank citizens. It would be confusing and split the community into unnecessary divisions. The City of Cut Bank should remain 100% whole and be included with like-minded communities with similar school, hospital, oil and gas, water, sewer and other issues.

I think the current Urban/Rural plan is fair to all of the citizens of Cut Bank and implore you to allow the City of Cut Bank to remain 100% whole.

Thank you.

Robin Pambrun
320 8th Ave SE
Cut Bank, Mt 59427

Weiss, Rachel

From: Anne Millbrooke [anne27m@yahoo.com]
Sent: Saturday, April 21, 2012 11:33 PM
To: Redistricting
Subject: I favor the Communities Plan

Dear Districting Team:

Appreciating the difficulty in aligning all the criteria for democratic districts, I favor the Communities Plan because it:

- guarantees constitutional right of one person, one vote
- respects existing communities in MT including small towns, rural communities, cities, and suburban areas
- keeps intact more small towns than any other proposed plan
- provides strong protection of minority voting rights so American Indian and other minority citizens can participate fully in political process, and
- creates a fair balance so that no single political party gains monopoly control of the legislature.

Sincerely,
Anne Millbrooke

3410 Golden Valley Drive
Bozeman, MT 59718

Weiss, Rachel

From: Wade Johnson [wjco@cutbankschools.net]
Sent: Monday, April 23, 2012 11:34 AM
To: Redistricting
Subject: Cut Bank Schools on Re-Districting

Dear Legislative Commissioners,

As superintendent of Cut Bank Schools, I am very concerned with talk of redistricting in Glacier County. I believe the City of Cut Bank should remain in the same legislative district as Shelby, Conrad, and Valier, because we have very similar interests with these communities. School District #15 is influenced by and sensitive to the needs of our students who come from the Blackfeet Reservation, but our business interests are much more closely related to Shelby, Valier, and Conrad than to Browning.

Cut Bank's industry is based largely on agriculture, railroad, oil/gas development, and health care. Browning's industry is based largely on federal government, tribal government, and other government related jobs. Cut Bank is part of a Tri-City Inter-local agreement with Conrad and Shelby in which all three towns share similar interests.

School District #15 is largely a conservative community with the City of Cut Bank striving to be proactive and willing to embrace new economic possibilities. County Commissioner DeRossier's comments in the Friday, April 20th Tribune article on legislative redistricting was very inaccurate. Cut Bank Public Schools are 61% Caucasian and 39% Native American and District #15 is very sensitive to the needs of all of our students.

Because Cut Bank's interests are so similarly linked to Shelby, Conrad and Vailer, we respectfully request that our legislative district remain as currently defined. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Wade Johnson

Wade Johnson, Superintendent
Cut Bank Schools
406-391-2229
wjco@cutbankschools.net

Weiss, Rachel

From: Wade Johnson [wjco@cutbankschools.net]
Sent: Monday, April 23, 2012 3:34 PM
To: Redistricting
Subject: Another Error

Dear Commissioners,

In my letter sent to you today I stated that our District was 61% Caucasian and 39% Native American. This was an error. The actual numbers are 56% Caucasian and 44% Native American. I apologize for the error.

Wade Johnson, Superintendent
Cut Bank Schools
406-391-2229
wjco@cutbankschools.net

Weiss, Rachel

From: bootalkie@yahoo.com
Sent: Thursday, April 26, 2012 8:54 AM
To: Redistricting
Subject: Cut Bank...

...Please make note that I will not be supporting the Cut Bank, Shelby, and Conrad communities as they have made it very clear they don't need me.

Charlotte New Breast

Weiss, Rachel

From: Matt Egloff [kragjorgensen@bresnan.net]
Sent: Thursday, April 26, 2012 10:17 AM
To: Redistricting
Subject: re-districting comment

I think the gerrymandering is nonsense. The districts should be within 1% of population size of each other if not 0.5%. We have the technology. Use it.

I also think districts should be drawn such that the distance from the center to an edge should be as close to square as possible. The maximum edge to center should be no more than twice the minimum edge to center distance. And districts should avoid any wiggles. We currently have too many districts that spoke into downtown from the hinterlands to achieve a certain party outcome. A rancher has a different perspective than a suburbanite or uptown dweller, yet all three have the same district and the resident types with the greatest numbers get to pick who represents them. Let districts represent like people. Obviously a rural area will have a physically bigger district than an urban area, but they should be homogenous in the type of resident and as close to square as possible.

And districts should NOT cross county lines. I heard of one scheme that wants to lump Silverbow county districts with neighboring counties. NO!

Representation should not be by party affiliation but by community - rural, semi-rural, suburban, urban. People are more alike in outlook based on how they choose to live, than a party label would indicate.

Quit trying to get political advantage with this process. If the voters don't like what you're peddling, consider changing what you're promising.

No Gerrymandering! The last several elections have shown that it doesn't work long term. You can fool some of the people all of the time and all of the people some of the time, but never all of the people all of the time. I forget who said it but it holds in our elections.

Matt Egloff
Butte

Weiss, Rachel

From: Gayle Brandvold [jgbrandvold@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 26, 2012 11:18 AM
To: Redistricting
Subject: Urban Rural Plan for Cut Bank, please!

Please choose the the Urban Rural Redistricting Plan for Cut Bank. Don't divide Cut Bank; I feel it should be represented as ONE CITY, to best serve ALL of its citizens. It's a progressive, growing city that is looking forward.

Browning and the Reservation is a beautiful culture and a sovereign nation and, in my opinion, should be in its own county. Cut Bank is a melting pot with different interests, and should also be its own county.

Thank You!

Sincerely,
a Cut Banker

Weiss, Rachel

From: lapierre@blackfoot.net
Sent: Tuesday, May 01, 2012 7:55 PM
To: Redistricting
Subject: 44!:&

Keep the redistribution ting lines inside county lines!!

Sent from my iPhone

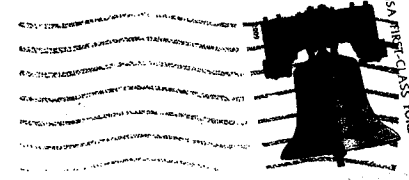
I support the Communities Plan because it:

- Guarantees our constitutional right of one person, one vote,
- Respects existing communities across Montana, including small towns, rural communities, cities, and suburban areas,
- Keeps intact more small towns than any other proposed plan,
- Provides strong protection of minority voting rights, so American Indian citizens can fully participate in our political process, and
- Creates a fair balance so that no one political party gains monopoly control of the Legislature.

Paula JOHNSON

Name PO Box 1224
 Address BIG FORT MT 59911
 City State Zip

5962091706 8001



Districting & Apportionment Commission
 Legislative Services Division
 PO Box 201706
 Helena, MT 59620-1706

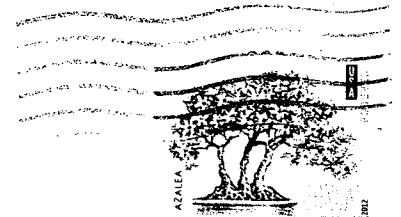
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BRENDA TALBERT Brenda Talbert

Name P.O. Box 2485
 Address Kalispell MT 59903
 City State Zip

5962091706 8001



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RALPH & SHIRLEY LENHART
 Name
PO BOX 1225 (54 PEDERSON DR.)
 Address
BIENDE MT 59330
 City State Zip

59620-1706

HELENA, MT 59611

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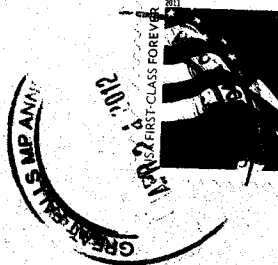
Montana Legislative Services Division

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Sally Karinen
 Name
1353 Skaggs Ln
 Address
Lewistown MT 59457
 City State Zip

Charley Karinen
 1353 Skaggs Ln
 Lewistown MT 59457



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Montana Legislative Services Division



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 Legislative Services Division
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TRUDI BISHOP PETERSON
 Name
P.O. Box 8
 Address
Judith Gap, MT 59453
 City State Zip

596201706 8001



ROBERT MARRIS
 Name
853 HIGHLAND DR
 Address
WATERFALL MT. 59937
 City State Zip

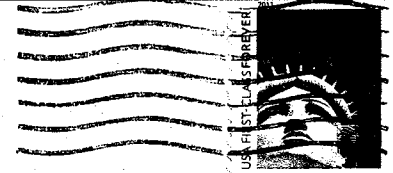
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I support the Communities Plan because it:

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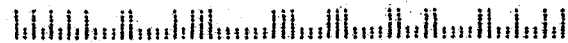


Districting & Apportionment Commission
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Edd Blucher

Name POB 555
 Address Bigfork MT 59911
 City State Zip

5962081706 8001



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Klaus + Joaquina Heinrich

Name 610 Monegan Rd
 Address Whitefish MT 59937
 City State Zip

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Coni Barnes
Name
595 Patrick Creek Rd
Address
Kalispell MT 59901
City State Zip

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Legislative Services Division
PO Box 201706
Helena, MT 59620-1706

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April Buonamici
Name
110 Bennett Drive
Address
Bozeman, MT 59715
City State Zip

BELLINGS MT 596

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Legislative Services Division
PO Box 201706
Helena, MT 59620-1706

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Tracey Bleck
 Name
P.O. Box 6
 Address
Lakeside MT 59922
 City State Zip

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JEFF STEDEN
 Name
206 W. Blvd.
 Address
LewisTown MT 59457
 City State Zip

* w/o splitting up LewisTown
 so RR! 59620-1706

GREAT FALLS MT 594
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 Helena, MT 59620-1706

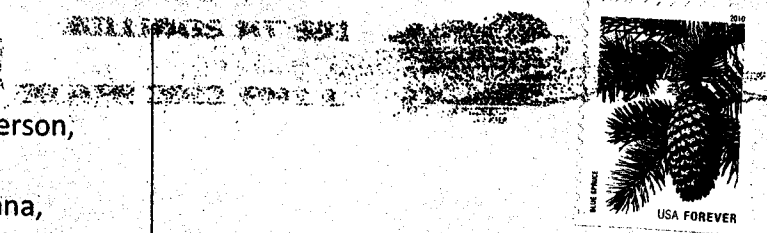


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James COURT
 Name
18 Heatherwood Ln
 Address
Billings MT 59102
 City State Zip

James Court
 5962031706



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 Helena, MT 59620-1706

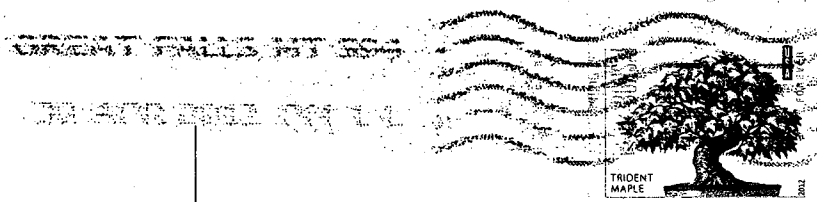


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Elizabeth Marum
 Name
114 E. Missoula Ave.
 Address
Belgrade MT 59714
 City State Zip

5962031706

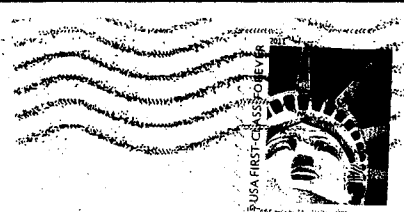


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I support the Communities Plan because it:

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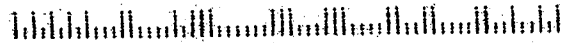


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Districting & Apportionment Commission
 Legislative Services Division
 PO Box 201706
 Helena, MT 59620-1706

Thomas Anderson
 Name
5532 Sandhill Road
 Address
Lewis town, MT. 59457
 City State Zip

59620-1706



IT is sad that the small
 city of Lewis town is divided in
 two voting zones.

Weiss, Rachel

From: Bill [billsmart@earthlink.net]
Sent: Saturday, May 05, 2012 3:03 PM
To: Redistricting
Subject: Jefferson Country redistricting
Attachments: SCAN0001.PDF

Please do not destroy our county's integrity!

Thank You!

William and Sarah Smart

178 Rolu Road

Whitehall, MT

59759

406-490-5175

TO THE MONTANA DISTRICTING AND APPORTIONMENT COMMISSION
P.O. BOX 201706 HELENA, MT 59620-1706
districting@mt.gov FAX 406-444-3036

Dear Commissioners,

As a resident of Jefferson County, I am totally opposed to having Jefferson County split up for the benefit of Butte/Silver Bow County. Each of the four plans submitted by the Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission and the plan submitted by the Democrats on the Commission all put some portion of Jefferson County into Butte/Silver Bow County. This is simply unacceptable.

If you are going to consider the three discretionary criteria you set up at the beginning of this process, you will understand why none of these proposals make any sense.

- 1.) Following the lines of political units. Jefferson County is about 1,500 people over the ideal district size. Since our existing district is most of Jefferson County, we should start there and make every effort to keep Jefferson County as whole as possible, the remain population staying with its Community of Interest in Madison County.
- 2.) Following geographic boundaries. The Continental Divide separates Jefferson and Butte/Silver Bow Counties. That is a very distinct geographic boundary between our counties that should be respected.
- 3.) Keeping communities of interest intact. Many people live in Jefferson County because they don't want the impacts and influences of urban areas. Most of Jefferson County should be one district, with an area of the county South of Interstate 90 remaining as part of the district that represents Madison County. The Whitehall Elementary and Whitehall High School District both include portions of Madison County. The Jefferson Valley Rural Fire District also extends into Madison County. Kids from Jefferson County participate in 4-H and the Madison County Fair in Twin Bridges. Jefferson and Madison Counties share an MSU Extension Agent. In short, Southern Jefferson County and Northern Madison County are clearly a "Community of Interest", and should remain together.

Jefferson County is located between three large urban counties, Lewis and Clark, Butte/Silver Bow, and Gallatin. It is important that we keep our own district so that we can maintain our proud identity. Please keep Jefferson County as whole as possible and allow a portion of Southern Jefferson County to remain with their "Community of Interest" in Northern Madison County.

Thank

Name

William E. Smart

Sarah C. Smart

WILLIAM E. SMART

SARAH C. SMART

Address

PO BOX 569, 178 ROLU ROAD, WHITEHALL, MT 59759

TO THE MONTANA DISTRICTING AND APPORTIONMENT COMMISSION

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- 1.) Following the lines of political units. Jefferson County is about 1,500 people over the ideal district size. Since our existing district is most of Jefferson County, we should start there and make every effort to keep Jefferson County as whole as possible.
- 2.) Following geographic boundaries. The Continental Divide separates Jefferson and Butte/Silver Bow Counties. That is a very distinct geographic boundary between our counties that should be respected.
- 3.) Keeping communities of interest intact. Many people live in Jefferson County because they don't want the impacts and influences of urban areas. Most of Jefferson County should be one district, with an area of the county South of Interstate 90 remaining as part of the district that represents Madison County. The Whitehall Elementary and Whitehall High School District both include portions of Madison County. The Jefferson Valley Rural Fire District also extends into Madison County. Kids from Jefferson County participate in 4-H and the Madison County Fair in Twin Bridges. In short, Southern Jefferson County and Northern Madison County are clearly a "community of interest", and should remain together.

Please keep Jefferson County as whole as possible and allow a portion of Southern Jefferson County to remain with their Community of Interest in Northern Madison County.

Thank you for your consideration.

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Montana Legislative
Services Division