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United States Senate

COMMITTEES
APPROPRIATIONS
ENERGY AND NATURAL
RESOURCES
FINANCE
INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. Chair, members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to share a few words on SJ 20.

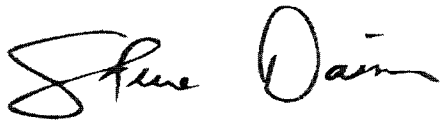
This committee has provided a forum for stakeholders to formulate and discuss options to address the disposition of lands designated as Wilderness Study Areas under the Montana Wilderness Study Act of 1977.

The legislature has shown interest in the status of Wilderness Study Areas. This comes as no surprise. Montanans love to recreate on public lands and many depend on them for their livelihoods. My wife Cindy and I spend time in the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness every summer and are always excited to return.

We must be good stewards of these resources. The current pandemic has only emphasized the value of Montana's public lands and demonstrated to many that their use is indeed the ideal way to social distance. A solution to this decades' old issue should include local support and will likely focus on issues of access and recreation to these lands whose value will only continue to grow with time in our Treasure State.

I intend to respect the state legislature's findings and will closely examine the Environmental Quality Council's final report.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Daines". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Senator Steve Daines