March 22, 2022

Susan Byorth Fox
Executive Director
Legislative Services Division
Helena, MT 59620-1706

Dear Ms. Fox:

The Secretary of State's office has the official responsibility to refer to you, as prescribed in MCA 13-27-202(5), a copy of the proposed initiatives for the review by the appropriate interim committee or legislative council.

Therefore, I have enclosed the following for your review, submitted by:

John Meyer, Executive Director and General Counsel, Cottonwood Environmental Law Center, PO Box 412 Bozeman, MT 59771, John@Cottonwoodlaw.org, (406) 546-0149

A statutory initiative for an act entitled:

"I-191 declares portions of the Gallatin and Madison Rivers north and west of Yellowstone National Park to be "Outstanding Resource Waters." The stretches of water that I-191 would designate run from Yellowstone National Park to the confluence of Spanish Creek on the Gallatin River and from Hebgen Lake to Ennis Lake on the Madison River.

I-191 bypasses the existing review process for such a designation, including the local government consultation, review of social and economic impacts, and environmental impact statement that would be involved.

I-191 also prohibits the State from approving a permit for any new or increased discharge into Outstanding Resource Waters if the permit would result in any adverse change in water quality, including only a temporary change."

Per subsection (5)(c) of the above statute, the outcome of the vote must be submitted to the Secretary of State's Office no later than 14 days after receipt of the final text of the proposed issue and ballot statements. In addition to the outcome of the vote, please provide the name of the interim committee that voted on the proposal, as well as the date the committee voted.

If you have questions, please contact the Secretary of State's office at (406) 444-9608 or soselections@mt.gov.

Sincerely,

Gabi Ames, Election Specialist
Signed electronically on 3/22/2022

Cc: Todd Everts, Fong Hom, Jaret Coles – Legislative Services Division