



January 6, 2023

Subject: Request for support for Project #4, Rehabilitation of Petroleum County Courthouse with Montana Historic Preservation Grant Program (MHPG) funds as recommended in the Governor's 2025 Biennium Executive Budget

Dear Long Range Planning Committee Members:

The Winnett ACES (Agricultural Community Enhancement and Sustainability) would like to voice support for Project #4, the Petroleum County Courthouse Rehabilitation. This project will rehabilitate the Courthouse for continued and future use as a community asset. Adapting the top floor of the building for affordable housing and coworking space will bring much needed opportunities for new residents and businesses in the county. Making the building more accessible will allow all residents of the county to utilize county services and addressing deferred maintenance will provide value to taxpayers.

The Winnett ACES has encouraged and partnered with Petroleum County since the beginning of this project in 2019 by securing funds for a feasibility study to be completed to determine proper uses of the underutilized building. ACES works on community enhancement projects across Petroleum County and believes that redevelopment of historic buildings is a perfect way to sustainably revitalize our community. Winnett ACES has fundraised for \$85,000 of the construction cost of this project and will continue to partner with the County by providing project management services through our Community Development Consultant, Kelly Beevers of Topos and Anthros.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Laura Nowlin".

Laura Nowlin,
Operations Coordinator
Winnett ACES