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**AUG 09 2019**

**Ravalli County Commissioners**

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West Fork Volunteer Fire District



5901 West Fork Road  
Darby, MT 59829

8 August 2019

Ravalli County Commissioners  
215 South 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Hamilton, MT 59840

Subject: Safety Issue on the West Fork Road

Commissioners:

We are writing this letter out of a genuine concern for the safety of travel on the West Fork Road (Highway 473). For years past (with the notable exception of last year 2018) Ravalli County has mowed the grass along the berms of both sides of this highway. As noted above, this mowing did not occur in 2018 and has yet to occur this year. The grass is already tall enough in many areas to completely hide whitetail deer as they cross the highway, which is particularly dangerous to passing vehicles. The West Fork Road has a significantly high level of traffic this time of year and the safety risk of not being able to see approaching hazards is compounded by not mowing the grass along the berms. While it would seem unnecessary to have to point out this safety concern to the Ravalli County Commissioners, the West Fork Fire District/QRU personnel have found it necessary to do so. It should be noted that the berms along the East Fork Highway, which is maintained by the State of Montana, have already been mowed this year.

In view of the elevated risk to the safety of travel, not only to the general public but especially to the West Fork Fire District/QRU first responders who routinely operate heavy water laden fire equipment, this safety issue is brought to your attention for prompt resolution.

Your early written response is expected.

Sincerely,

Richard Bonnett  
Board of Trustees Chairman

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Realty Commission

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