

Glenda Wiles

From: Ravalli County Commissioners Office
To: rhoskins@u.washington.edu
Subject: RE: Public Comment re: Interior, Energy and Environment subcommittee hearing, Aug. 7, Hamilton, MT

Thank you for your email Dr. Hastings. It will be placed in commissioners and general correspondence.

I will answer one part of your email regarding the field hearing. Director Leslie Robinson of the Missoula Office called me well over a week ago to see if the sub-committee could utilize the Commissioners Conference Room. We talked about the size of the room, the capability of the live streaming and archiving the meeting on our Ravalli County Website for the public's benefit. Ms. Robins advised me this was a Sub-committee/briefing meeting and as such was not a forum for public comment. But that the public could attend. I double checked with the Commissioners for the use of the room as we try to accommodate many types of groups from 4-H to field briefing meetings such as this. Please note the calendared item for the use of our room reflects the type of meeting and who is utilizing the room. Also note this is not a public hearing, and it is not calendared as a Ravalli County Commissioner meeting. All of that being said, I appreciate the public's interest in important matters such as the briefing session. Glenda Wiles, Commissioners Administrative Assistant.

-----Original Message-----

From: Richard Hoskins [mailto:rhoskins@u.washington.edu]
Sent: Saturday, August 4, 2018 10:24 AM
To: Ravalli County Commissioners Office <commissioners@rc.mt.gov>
Subject: Public Comment re: Interior, Energy and Environment subcommittee hearing, Aug. 7, Hamilton, MT

Rep. Gianforte and Ravalli County Commissioners,

I'm glad to hear you're hosting a congressional field hearing in Hamilton on August 7. However, I'm disappointed to learn that you will not be accepting public comment at the hearing.

What good is a public hearing when you're unwilling to actually hear public comments?

According to the bipartisan University of Montana Public Lands Survey, 81% of Montanans oppose your two bills stripping protection from 29 WSAs that comprise over 800,000 acres of our wildest public lands. The poll also showed that 97 percent of Montanans think it's important that a wide range of stakeholders and local communities have the opportunity to provide input on this kind of legislation before decisions are made. But you've so far denied us that opportunity.

I'm writing with two requests:

First, withdraw support of H.R. 5148 and 5149.

Second, abandon your top-down, one-size-fits-all approach to our WSAs and pursue a collaborative, balanced, and inclusive approach, one that engages the spectrum of of Montanans who benefit from, use, and cherish our WSAs.

Sincerely,

Dr. Richard Hoskins
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