

Glenda Wiles

From: Errol Rupp <erupp@qwestoffice.net>
Sent: Friday, August 3, 2018 8:09 PM
To: Ravalli County Commissioners Office
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,

Mr. Errol Rupp
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