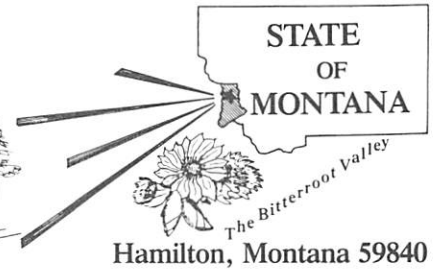


# COUNTY OF RAVALLI



June 13, 2019

Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue  
[feedback@oc.usda.gov](mailto:feedback@oc.usda.gov)

Secretary of Labor Alex Acosta  
[executivesecretariat@dol.gov](mailto:executivesecretariat@dol.gov)

To Whom it May Concern:

The Ravalli County Board of County Commissioners would like to respectfully register our deep dismay at the potential changes taking place at Trapper Creek Job Corps (TCJC).

Through our long-time partnership with TCJC, we have watched it become one of the most successful and impactful programs in the country. It is no exaggeration to say that no other federal program we know of has changed more lives, turning many troubled youths into contributing, skilled members of our society. As locally elected officials, we have been privileged to come alongside TCJC and, in doing so, have been the direct beneficiaries of the fruits of their trades training. Job Corps students have poured sidewalks in our communities, worked on important building projects, crafted meals for community fundraisers and, in general, contributed to our quality of life here in Ravalli County. Most importantly, we have had the satisfaction of watching the Center's students succeed.

Over the many years that TCJC has been in the Bitterroot Valley, it has become an integral part of our community. They have stood beside us in good times, and have been a reliable partner in bad times. As you are all aware, since the late 1990s, the Bitterroot has experienced very few summers without the specter of catastrophic wildfire which has scarred our landscape, threatened our homes and businesses, impacted our already struggling economy, and affected our health, safety and welfare. TCJC has always been here to help fight fires, combat flooding and assist with the recovery.

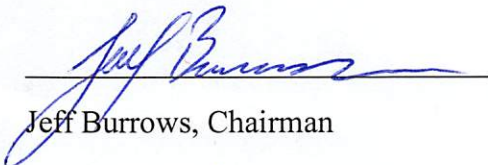
It can truly be said that TCJC represents the best of what the federal government can offer its citizens. It is shocking that such an important program could be threatened without holding so much as a single discussion on the local level. Our community is reeling from the news and we are angered at the lack of communication on a subject that in no small measure impacts us all.

At a time in our nation's history when government is criticized for waste, fraud and abuse, it is inconceivable to us that you would take a model of success and, at worst, close it down, and at best, set it up for future failure by removing it from the stewardship of the Department of Agriculture and the US Forest Service where it has thrived for so many years.

It is our considered opinion that you are discarding a program which, in our region, is hailed and universally regarded as a major success. We respectfully request that you reconsider this precipitous move. At a minimum, please give our community the opportunity to participate in the decision-making process as you deliberate on this important matter.

Respectfully,

Ravalli County Board of Commissioners



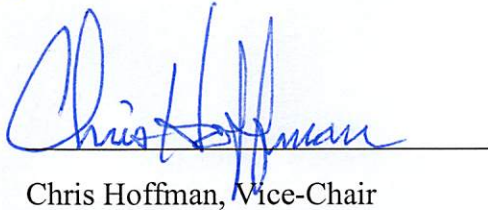
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Jeff Burrows, Chairman



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Greg Chilcott, Member



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Chris Hoffman, Vice-Chair

- CC: US Senator Jon Testor  
US Senator Steve Daines  
US Representative Greg Gianforte  
Governor Steve Bullock  
MT Senator Fred Thomas  
MT Senator Jason Ellsworth  
MT Representative Sharon Greef  
MT Representative Nancy Ballance  
MT Representative Dave Bedey  
MT Representative Theresa Manzella  
Acting National Director Debra Carr