

March 14, 2012

Dear Senator Baucus, Senator Tester & Congressman Rehberg:

The undersigned Montana businesses are writing in opposition to the Wilderness and Roadless Area Release Act of 2011 (H.R. 1581/S. 1087).

The Wilderness and Roadless Release Act would destroy hunting, angling and outdoor recreational opportunities by opening up millions of acres of our nation's greatest fish and game habitats for development, including over 5.5 millions acres of backcountry roadless areas in Montana.

In good times and bad, our businesses depend on customers who come to Montana from near and far in pursuit of unparalleled hunting and fishing opportunities. The Outdoor Industry Foundation reports that outdoor recreation contributes over 2.5 billion dollars to Montana's economy annually, and according to Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, hunters and anglers alone bring \$500 million in this state each year. Much of that money is spent at small businesses on main streets across Montana.

In Montana, we already have 32,000 miles of roads on national forest lands. The Forest Service is unable to maintain this vast network of roads, and currently faces a maintenance backlog of \$558 million. As business owners, we watch every penny we spend. We certainly don't want the federal government to spend even more taxpayer dollars building and maintaining unnecessary roads.

Here in Montana, our backcountry and roadless areas are a way of life. They provide the open space and clean water that we all count on day in and day out. When Washington DC politicians try to open these lands for development they not only threaten our unique quality of life in Montana, but for many businesses and employers, they threaten our financial bottom line as well.

Montana's backcountry is good for business - let's keep it that way. Please stand up for our open spaces and for Montana businesses by opposing the Wilderness and Roadless Area Release Act of 2011(H.R. 1581/S. 1087).

Sincerely,

7 Lazy P Deep Canyon Guest Ranch, Choteau
Archery Center of Montana, Missoula
Bad Goat Forest Products, Missoula
Barrister Bed & Breakfast, Helena
Base Camp Images, Red Lodge
Bear Spirit Lodge B&B, St. Ignatius
Bearpaw River Expeditions, Missoula
Big Sky Commerce, Inc., Missoula
Big Sky Laboratory and Beetle Works, Florence
Bighorn Sports, Great Falls
Bitterroot Valley Archery, Florence
Blackfoot River Outfitters, Missoula
Blackfoot Traders, Missoula
Blossom's Bed & Breakfast, Missoula
Blue Ribbon Flies, West Yellowstone
Bob Marshall Wilderness Outfitters, Missoula
Bozeman Angler, Bozeman
Bozeman Yogo Studio, Bozeman
Brady's Trading Post, Missoula
CanyonPeakMarketing LLC, Helena
Cheff Guest Ranch, Charlo
Dunrovin Ranch, Lolo

East Rosebud Fly and Tackle, Billings
Edge of the World, Missoula
Firehole Ranch, West Yellowstone
Fishaus Fly Fishing, Hamilton
Flint Creek Outdoors, Phillipsburg
Fly Fishing Montana with Dixon Adventures, Florence
Flying R Guest Cabins, Darby
Four-O-Six, Helena
Fox Hollow Bed and Breakfast, Bozeman
Freeheel & Wheel, Inc., West Yellowstone
Frontier Anglers, Dillon
Gamer's Cafe, Butte
General Mercantile, Helena
Ghost Rails Inn Bed and Breakfast, Alberton
Glacier Guides and Montana Raft, West Glacier
Glacier Impressions Gallery, East Glacier Park
Glacier Park Inn Bed & Breakfast, Hungry Horse
Goldsmith's Bed and Breakfast, Missoula
Green Acres Storage, Manhattan
Grizzly Hackle Fly Shop, Missoula
High Country Adventures, Choteau
I-Ho's Korean Grill, Bozeman
IMS Racing, Billings
Individual, Helena
Jersey Boys Pizzeria, Whitefish
Linehan Outfitting Company, Troy
Madison River Fishing Co., Ennis
Magpie Guest House, Bozeman
MAK Direct, Missoula
Mi Casa Pottery, Whitefish
Miller's Crossing, Helena
Missoula Outdoor Learning Adventures, Missoula
Missoulian Angler Fly Shop, Missoula
Molly Montana Real Estate, Libby
Montana Fly Goods, Helena
Montana Mapping and GPS, Missoula
Montana Outdoor Sports, Helena
Montana Topwater, Missoula
Montana Troutfitters, Bozeman
Mountain Home Design, Trout Creek
No Sweat Cafe, Helena
Oboz Footwear, Bozeman
Open Road Bicycles, Missoula
Outside Media Group, Bozeman
Ph.D-Skis, Bozeman
Play On Soccer, Helena
Rainbow Run Fly Shop, Billings
Rising Wolf Ranch, East Glacier
Rock Creek Fisherman's Mercantile, Clinton
Rocky Mountain Outfitters, Kalispell
Roundhouse Sports Center, Bozeman
Slide Inn, Cameron
Snowcrest Outdoor Products, Stevensville
Sola Cafe, Bozeman
Spring Field Catering Direct, West Midlands

Stoneydale Press Publishing Company, Stevensville
Strongwater, Missoula
Sunrise Fly Shop, Melrose
Swan Hill Bed and Breakfast and Lakeside Cabin, Polson
Sweetgrass Rods, Twin Bridges
Sweetwater Travel, Livingston
Taxidermy Unlimited, Missoula
The Focal Point, Libby
The Kingfisher Flyshop, Missoula
The Painted Pot, Helena
The River's Edge, Bozeman
The Sports Exchange, Missoula
The StoneFly Fly Shop LLC, Butte
The Trail Head, Missoula
The White Room, Whitefish
Tony Bynum Outdoor, Nature, Wildlife Photography, East Glacier Park
Tounsley Electric, Billings
Tread Lightly, Helena
Wilderness Outfitters Consulting Group. LLC, Missoula
Wildland Conservation Services, Condon
Wildwood Trails, Inc., Bozeman
Yellow Dog Flyfishing Adventures, Bozeman
Yellowstone Angler, Livingston
Yellowstone River Inn Cabins, Livingston