



The Treasure State

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Representative Nancy Ballance

House District 87

May 21, 2020

Honorable Senator Steve Daines,

First, let me thank you for the work you have done to limit the impact of the Covid-19 virus on Montana individuals, families, and businesses. Your quick and decisive action has had a profound effect and has kept a bad situation from becoming much worse.

As you are working on the next round of emergency funding to restore the economy, I would like to make a couple points that relate to areas in which I have been most involved over the past eight years in my role as MT Representative for HD87.

Firstly, my focus on Ravalli County's economy led me to immediately begin work with our local Ravalli County Economic Development Authority and County Commissioners to ensure we understand the impact of Covid-19 on our local community and that we take the appropriate steps to ensure we emerge strong from this economic crisis. To that end, we examined our Ravalli County economic development plans in light of the anticipated revenue shortfall in our county. While immediate revenue replacement would have helped, we believe the more effective solution is to get Ravalli County back on the growth trajectory we were experiencing prior to the Covid-19. This will not only benefit Ravalli County but will also restore the revenue stream Ravalli County has been providing to the state general fund via income tax. To help ensure Ravalli County is able to emerge strong from the Covid-19 pandemic, we are asking that you consider assistance to smaller local government entities, such as Montana counties, in two areas, economic recovery, including completion of economic development projects in the works prior to the Covid-19, and direct reimbursement of expenses incurred for management of the Covid-19.

Secondly, my legislative work supporting healthcare programs makes it clear that more needs to be done to support our hospitals, healthcare providers and nurses. These groups have been on the front lines of the Covid-19 pandemic and are still struggling to make ends meet for themselves, their patients, and their families. I would ask that you support additional funding for healthcare in the new Covid-19 emergency funding programs.

Thank you again for all you are doing to ensure Montana emerges strong from this unprecedented challenge.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nancy Ballance".

Representative Nancy Ballance

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