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Ravalli County Commissioners

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June 10, 2020

Ravalli County Board of Commissioners  
215 South 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite A  
Hamilton, Montana 59840

**Western Region**

Dear Commissioners Chilcott, Hoffman, and Burrows,

Greetings, and thank you for your continuing support of Montana State University Extension in Ravalli County. The bond of counties and your Land Grant University is one of the greatest sources of strength for Extension education in Montana. Patrick and Katelyn generate impressive positive community impacts in large part due to your continuing support.

I understand that COVID-19 responses have imposed heavy financial burdens on Ravalli County and a degree of uncertainty surrounds reimbursement of county expenditures and the strength of future revenue streams. It is understood that strategic investment of county funds to assure strong return on your investment is critical.

An investment in a full-time 4-H Youth Development Agent will yield strong positive returns now and into the future. A 10-year study conducted by Tufts University indicates that 4-H members are nearly 4-times more likely to make contributions to their communities and 2-times more likely to be civically active as adults than their non-4-H member counterparts. Additionally, the Tufts study shows that 4-H members are nearly twice as likely to make healthier life choices placing less of a burden on health care resources. An investment of an additional \$18,500 will allow a full-time agent to continue growing the 4-H Youth Development program in Ravalli County.

Thank you again for supporting MSU Extension and providing resources for Patrick and Katelyn to generate positive impacts with Ravalli County communities.

Sincerely,



Daniel E. Lucas  
MSUE Western Region Department Head

*Montana State University,  
U.S. Department of  
Agriculture and Montana  
Counties Cooperating.  
MSU Extension is an equal  
opportunity/affirmative  
action provider of  
educational outreach.*

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