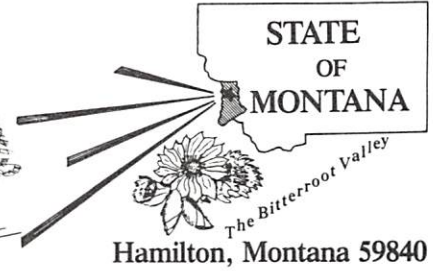


COUNTY OF RAVALLI



June 9, 2022

Alyssa Townsend
Big Sky Trust Fund Program Specialist
Montana Department of Commerce
PO Box 200505
Helena, MT 59620-0505

Re: Ravalli County Concurrence on Forgiveness Request for Pioneer Log Company MT-BSTF-1-19-01

Dear Ms. Townsend,

The Ravalli County Board of Commissioners have reviewed the letter of May 18, 2022 from, Mr. Heitmann, Pioneer Log Company's Director of Operations. The Board of Commissioners concurs with the reasonableness of Mr. Heitmann's letter and request that Pioneer Log Company be forgiven any requirement to repay the funds provided in Draw #1, in the amount of \$19,000, on September 25, 2018.

The post-COVID period is unprecedented in Ravalli County. Nearly all businesses in the county are suffering from the high cost of housing, no housing stock, rising inflation, and insufficient workforce availability. Ravalli County grew at 3.6% from 2020-2021. Gallatin County grew at 2.7%, and Flathead County grew at 3.5% during the same period of time. Even if a worker could afford a home there are few on the market and there are no rentals.

Year	Median Home Price in Ravalli County	Increase from previous year
2022	\$525,000	12.2%
2021	\$468,000	26.8%
2020	\$365,000	19.4%
2019	\$309,000	

Pioneer Log Company is one of a small number of wood products businesses that remain in Ravalli County. Pioneer has employed nearly one hundred workers in the past years and may again. Pioneer Log Company is doing their best to hire more workers, as well as raising the wage and benefits for existing workers. Thank you in advance for your consideration of the Commissioners request of forgiving any repayment and supporting this good business to carry on without one additional burden to bare.

Sincerely,

Dan Huls
Ravalli County Commissioner, Chair