

Ravalli County Commissioners
215 S 4 TH Street
Hamilton, MT 59840 September 12, 2022

Dear County Commissioners;

The Open Lands Board is currently processing and presenting to you the Sweathouse Creek Project which is more locally known as the Hackett Ranch for Conservation Easement. While I do not currently reside in Victor, I am still a property owner in the area and am a fifth generation native of Montana. I want to encourage your support for this valuable project.

The Hackett Ranch is a working cattle ranch that not only provides and maintains the agricultural integrity of the valley. It also provides many outdoor recreation opportunities with access for hunting, fishing, and wildlife watching. I have accessed the area many times for hiking and recreation. Since it borders the Bitterroot National Forest this Conservation Easement would provide valuable access from the valley to the Forest. It is a beautiful scenic open space which can be clearly seen from Highway 93 being only 3 miles from Victor.

I think it is also important to point out that Scott Hackett is the last of the Hackett generation. Neither he nor his brother have any children and without this the land will likely be subdivided, homes built, and the access will be lost. With the easement in place at least we can guarantee that the future generations of children in the valley will be able to view the mountains and play on the westside above Victor. This includes myself and my children and our ability to continue to hike and recreate in the area.

Conservation Easements are extremely valuable in today's world and the influx of growth. It is only with multiple organizations and your support that this project can be accomplished.

Please approve this valuable conservation easement to protect the values of the residents and visitors of Bitterroot Valley. Please provide your support to the Sweathouse Creek Project / Hackett Ranch.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Roxane White". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rox@strategywithrox.org