



Montana State Parks  
4600 Giant Springs Road  
Great Falls, MT., 59405

December 16, 2019

To: City of Great Falls Commission

Subject: Resolution 10326

Dear City Commissioners,

Montana State Parks would like to encourage you to pass Resolution 10326. We are in support of the effort underway by the Big Sky Country National Heritage Area (BSCNHA) to seek funding through the Great Falls Development Authority to the Montana Department of Commerce Big Sky Trust Fund Grant program. With approval of this grant the BSCNHA will be able to continue with the critical planning component essential to the operation and future of this important effort.

Thanks for your consideration.

John F. Taillie

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'John F. Taillie'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J'.

Montana State Parks  
Region 4 Park Manager

**From:** [Lisa C. Kunz](#)  
**To:** [Greg Doyon](#); [Charles Anderson](#); [Craig Raymond](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Resolution 10326  
**Date:** Monday, December 16, 2019 10:30:00 AM

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One more, fyi.

Lisa

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**From:** Lisa C. Kunz  
**Sent:** Friday, December 13, 2019 4:24 PM  
**To:** Darcy Dea <ddea@greatfallsmt.net>; Bill Bronson <bbronson@greatfallsmt.net>; Bob Kelly <bkelly@greatfallsmt.net>; Mary Sheehy Moe <msheehymoe@greatfallsmt.net>; Owen Robinson <orobinson@greatfallsmt.net>; Tracy Houck <thouck@greatfallsmt.net>  
**Subject:** FW: Resolution 10326

See comments below pertaining to consideration of Item 15 on the December 17<sup>th</sup> agenda.

Best,

*Lisa*

City Clerk/Records Manager  
406.455.8451

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**From:** Lisa C. Kunz  
**Sent:** Friday, December 13, 2019 4:22 PM  
**To:** 'Murry Moore' <[Murry.Moore@stockmens.net](mailto:Murry.Moore@stockmens.net)>  
**Subject:** RE: Resolution 10326

Good Afternoon Mayor –

Thank you for your comments on this agenda item that will be considered by the City Commission on December 17<sup>th</sup>. Your comments will be shared with the City Commission.

*Lisa Kunz*

City Clerk/Records Manager  
City of Great Falls  
P.O. Box 5021  
Great Falls, MT 59403  
406.455.8451

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**From:** Murry Moore <[Murry.Moore@stockmens.net](mailto:Murry.Moore@stockmens.net)>

**Sent:** Friday, December 13, 2019 4:17 PM

**To:** [lkunz@greatfallsmt.net](mailto:lkunz@greatfallsmt.net).

**Subject:** Resolution 10326

Dear Commission members.

I, Murry Moore Mayor of the Town of Cascade, ask that you support Resolution 10326. As a member of Big Sky Country National Heritage Area I feel the passage of this resolution will help our Heritage Area group complete an integral part of its planning efforts for the Heritage Area. The local NHA group has been working diligently on this project for 4 years now and your help will be appreciated.

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THE MONTANA HISTORY  
FOUNDATION

16 December 2019

City Commission of Great Falls  
Great Falls Civic Center  
c/o Lisa Kunz, City Clerk

Dear City Commissioners:

The Montana History Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit charity based in Helena. We help preserve Montana history and heritage resources across the state. We work with small museums, preservation offices, and local governments all over Montana.

We urge the Commission to vote FOR Resolution 10326. If the grant is awarded, it will help the Heritage Area group complete an integral part of its planning efforts for the Heritage Area. This will be incredibly beneficial to the city of Great Falls, Cascade County and beyond. Great things are possible with collaborations such as this.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Charlene Porsild', written in a cursive style.

Charlene Porsild, PhD  
President/CEO



P.O. BOX 553 ♦ GREAT FALLS MT ♦ 59403

December 16, 2019

Montana Department of Commerce  
re: Big Sky Trust Fund Planning Grant

I am writing on behalf of River's Edge Trail Foundation to express our support for the grant application being submitted by Big Sky Country National Heritage Area and Great Falls Development Authority for funding the process of developing a plan for management of the only National Heritage Area in Montana once it has been approved by congress.

Rivers Edge Trail Foundation is actively working to add to and protect citizen access to the historic Missouri riverfront as well as promoting preservation and appreciation of the rich national history that is present throughout Cascade County. We commend and support the ongoing efforts of those working toward a Big Sky Country National Heritage Area.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bruce Pollington".

Bruce Pollington  
President, Board of Directors  
Rivers Edge Trail Foundation

December 17, 2019

Great Falls City Commission  
P. O. Box 5021  
Great Falls, MT 59403

RE: Resolution 10326

Dear Commissioners:

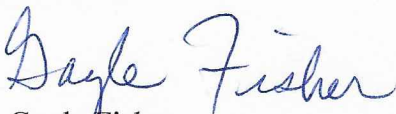
Central Montana Tourism Region supports Great Falls Development Authority's application to Big Sky Economic Development Trust Fund for a grant to support creation of a management plan for Big Sky Country National Heritage Area.

The Central Montana Tourism Region covers 13 counties including Cascade County and Chouteau County. Cascade County and portions of Chouteau County lie within the National Heritage Area proposed boundaries. Designation of a National Heritage Area in our tourism region will be another strength to use in promoting visitation to the area. Needless to say, out of area visitation brings new revenue into our communities.

A volunteer group has worked tirelessly for four years to achieve designation as a National Heritage Area and once that occurs, the management plan developed through this grant will be critical for launching future efforts.

We urge your support of this grant request being made by Great Falls Development Authority.

Sincerely,



Gayle Fisher  
Executive Director

COMMENTS ON RESOLUTION NO. 10326  
JENI DODD  
DECEMBER 17, 2019

This resolution seeks to enter the city into an agreement to serve as a pass-through entity for a potential grant to another pass-through entity, the Great Falls Development Authority, with the final grant recipient being the Big Sky Country National Heritage Area Inc.

1, Two city commissioners have potential conflicts of interest with this resolution. Commissioner Bronson is listed with the Montana Secretary of State as the registered agent for Big Sky Country National Heritage Area Inc. and is listed as the organization's attorney. Commissioner Houck was a board member at the corporation's inception through 2018.

2. Why the need for two pass-through entities? The Big Sky Economic Development Trust Fund grant is meant for job creation or economic development planning. The proposed National Heritage Area is neither a job creation nor an economic development entity. So in order for the National Heritage Area corporation to get the grant, it appears they need the GFDA, a so-called economic development entity, to serve as a pass-through. This seems like a gross misrepresentation in order to get these funds. It is also unfair to other Montana communities that are seeking funds for actual economic growth projects.

3. When and where did the city commission determine that Big Sky Country National Heritage Area has the potential to meet city goals as stated in this resolution? I did not find a past vote by the commission affirming that determination. It appears that the city commission may have met privately to make the determination documented in the resolution.

4. National Heritage Areas corrupt the principle of representative government. They are run by quasi-governmental, non-elected corporations which are not directly accountable to citizens. This poses the very real threat of private property rights losses through regulatory taking—laws and zoning passed by local governments under pressure by NHA corporations and swayed by promises of easy federal money.

In my research, I've found numerous incidents of private property rights infringements in NHAs and so did folks in Fergus and Blaine Counties. That's why both of those counties voted to opt out of this NHA.

5. Each of the 55 National Heritage Areas in existence today started out with sunset dates, by which they were to become self-sufficient. Those dates that have come and gone and those areas still aren't self-sufficient, resulting in chronic dependence on federal grants rather than free market activity.

6. Do we really want the National Park Service, with its maintenance backlog, having oversight on a National Heritage Area that encompasses all of Cascade County and part of Chouteau County?

As of 2018, Glacier NP had \$131,189,894 and Yellowstone had \$22,053,145 in deferred maintenance, respectively. Why add more responsibilities and therefore, more costs, to an already overloaded park system, one that can't maintain what is already under its auspices.

This NHA will divert our taxpayer dollars away from our National Parks, which are public treasures, to a non-elected, private corporation that will award grants to their favorite private businesses—yet another opportunity for cronyism in a town where cronyism rules. The citizens of Great Falls don't want or need this pork barrel program that benefits a few at the expense of many.