April 17, 2020

Senator Jon Tester
724 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Steve Daines
320 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

U.S. Representative Greg Gianforte
1419 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Tester, Senator Daines, and Representative Gianforte,

Like most other parts of our economy, Montana’s nonprofit sector – which provides 11.2% of private sector jobs in our state – continues to struggle in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. The CARES Act includes significant relief for charitable organizations by including nonprofits in the emergency loan programs, extending unemployment benefits to many nonprofit employees, and providing a small tax incentive for charitable giving. Nonprofits are appreciative of this relief and grateful for your leadership on behalf of Montana.

During the past two weeks, Montana Nonprofit Association and our partners at the national level have heard from nonprofits about several modifications to provisions in the CARES Act that would help nonprofit organizations recover from the economic challenges stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic. A unified group of major national organizations has put together a set of recommendations (attached) for modifications to the CARES Act that will help preserve nonprofits’ ability to provide essential services at this time of greatest need.

MNA, including the organizations who have joined us in signing this letter and are included below, seeks your assistance in ensuring the following is included in the next phase of the CARES Act:

1. **Expand nonprofits’ access to credit** to provide for immediate financial relief by expanding nonprofit eligibility for the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) and by establishing a dedicated funding stream for PPP loans to nonprofit organizations.

2. **Strengthen temporary above-the-line charitable deductions** from the CARES Act by allowing taxpayers to use it on the 2019 taxes, significantly increasing the $300 cap, and extending it beyond 2020.
3. **Hold harmless self-insured nonprofits by providing funding to cover 100% of the costs of these organizations’ unemployment claims.** Without this change, many nonprofits that provide direct services will be financially devastated. This is not an issue in Montana as it is in other states but we are flagging it for you because it is critical this be addressed in a way that takes into account these extraordinary circumstances.

4. **Increase emergency funding** so that nonprofits can work with state and local governments to provide essential services to vulnerable families and frontline responders to the COVID-19 crisis.

Thank you for your continued leadership during this crisis. The CARES Act was an important first step in helping nonprofits recover from the COVID-19 crisis. We hope you and your colleagues in Congress will continue to enable nonprofits to provide essential services in Montana through these recommended modifications as you address the next phase of the CARES Act.

Please feel free to reach out with questions or for more information.

Sincerely,

A Carousel for Missoula
Absaroka Beartooth Wilderness Foundation
Alberta Bair Theater
Alternative Energy Resource Organization AERO
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
American Lung Association in Montana
American Heart Association
Anaconda Coalition for Tolerance Education
Anderson ZurMuehlen & Co., P.C.
Art Mobile of Montana
Arts Missoula
ASPEN
Big Brothers Big Sisters of NW Montana
Big Hole Watershed Committee
Big Sky Community Organization
Bighorn Basin Paleontological Institute
Bighorn River Alliance
Bighorn Valley Health Center, Inc
Billings Community Foundation
Billings Leadership Foundation
Billings TrainNet
Bitterroot Performing Arts Council
Bozeman Public Library Foundation
Bozeman Senior Center
Bozeman Symphony
Bridgercare
Brightways Learning
Carbon County Arts Guild & Depot Gallery
CASA of Yellowstone County
Cascade County Law Clinic
Center for Restorative Youth Justice
Child Care Connections
ChildWise Institute
Citizens for a Better Flathead
Clark Fork Coalition
Climate Smart Missoula
Community Action Partnership of Northwest Montana
Community Leadership & Development
Community Support Center
Cottonwood ALC
Cottonwood Day School
Creative Arts Council
Daly Mansion Preservation Trust
Discovery Academy & Community Learning Center
Downtown Missoula Partnership
Downtown Missoula Partnership
Dream Adaptive
Eagle Mount Great Falls
Eastern Montana CASA GAL Inc
Easterseals-Goodwill Northern Rocky Mountain
Ecology Project International
Emerson Center for the Arts & Culture
Empower Montana
Family Connections
Family Promise of Greater Helena
Family Service
FirstCall
Flathead Lakers
Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp, Kalispell
Florence Crittenton
Glacier Ice Rink
Gallatin River Rask Force
Gallatin Valley Farm to School
Gallatin Valley YMCA
Garden City Harvest
Glacier Country Regional Tourism Commission
Glacier Symphony and Chorale
Great Falls Clinic Legacy Foundation
Greater Glendive Community Foundation
H.E.A.R.T
Habitat for Humanity of Gallatin Valley, Inc
Habitat for Humanity of Missoula
Habitat for Humanity of Ravalli County
Headwaters Economics
Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies
Heart of the Rockies Initiative
Helena Family YMCA
Helena Symphony
Helena Tourism Alliance
Home Resource
Hope Africa Collective
Hospice House for Missoula
HRDC District IX Bozeman Intermountain
Jay Swanson
K9 Care Montana, Inc
Keith Conway
Kristina Klass + Co, LLC
Leavitt Great West
Liberty Place, Inc
Life Houses Inc
Lonas, Inc
MacLean-Cameron Animal Adoption Center
MARS Montana Aquatic Resources Services
MCT, Inc
Missoula Butterfly House and Insectarium
Missoula Interfaith Collaborative
Montana 4-H Foundation Inc
Montana Association of Symphony Orchestras
Montana Conservation Corps
Montana Cooperative Development Center
Montana Independent Living Project
Montana Learning Center at Canyon Ferry Lake
Montana Nonprofit Association
Montana Renewable Energy Association
Montana Rescue Mission
Montana Shares
Montana Watershed Coordination Council
Montana Wildlife Federation
Montana Outdoor Science School
Museums Association of Montana NeighborWorks
North Central Area Agency on Aging
North Valley Music School
Northwest Montana Veterans Food Pantry
NowITMatters
Outdoor Writers Association of America
Paris Gibson Square Museum of Art
Park County Community Foundation
Park County Environmental Council
Park County Senior Citizens Corporation
Pondera Arts Council
Pride Foundation
Professional Ski Instructors of America, NRM Division
Ratzlaff Enterprise
Red Ants Pants Foundation
Red Lodge Area Community Foundation
Red Willow Learning Center, Inc
Rimrock Foundation
Rocky Mountain Ballet Theatre
Roots Family Collaborative
Rural Dynamics
Rural Employment Opportunities, Inc
Sagebrush Food Pantry
Sample Foundation
Sanders County Coalition For Families
Seeley Community Foundation
Selway Bitterroot Frank Church Foundation
Shane Lalani Center for the Arts
Soft Landing Missoula
South Central Montana Regional Mental Health Center
South Central MT RSVP
Special K Ranch, Inc
St. John’s United
Sunnyside Farms, Inc
Swan Valley Connections
Swan View Coalition
Sweet Grass Artists Alliance
Sweet Grass Community Foundation
The Clay Studio of Missoula
The Cody Dieruf Benefit Foundation
The Dotted i
The Myrna Loy Center

The O'Hara Commons & Sustainability Center
The People’s Partners for Community Development
The Stevensville Historical Museum
The Summit Lighthouse/Church Universal and Triumphant
The University of Montana Western Foundation
The Vital Ground Foundation
Travelers' Rest Connection
Tri-County Firesafe Working Group
United Way of Butte and Anaconda
United Way of Missoula County
United Way of the Lewis and Clark Area
United Way of Yellowstone County
Verge Theater
Victim-Witness Assistance Services
WaterWorks Art Museum
West Mont
West Yellowstone Foundation
Weststaff
Whitefish Community Foundation
Wild Rockies Field Institute
Windhorse Equine Learning
Working Dogs for Conservation
WorldMontana
Yellowstone Country Montana, Inc.
Yellowstone Ecological Research Center
YES Youth Empowerment Services
YWCA Missoula
Zootown Arts Community Center