

## BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Andy Hunthausen

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May 28, 2019

Governor's Office PO Box 200801 Helena, MT 59620

Dear Governor Bullock;

We are very excited about the recently approved Montana Heritage Center. The Lewis and Clark County Commission supports this project and is excited about what it will bring to our community.

It is our understanding there are a few sites currently under consideration, including the lot directly north of the current facility, as well as the recently cleared Capitol Hill Mall site.

While we encourage a thorough investigation into all potential locations and recognize all have their own merits, we currently support locating the Montana Heritage Center at the former Capitol Hill Mall site.

This site has been part of the discussion for fourteen years. There were various past concerns now mitigated, including demolition of the Capitol Hill Mall. The parcel is now a blank slate. It is centrally located, close to the Capitol, and has plenty of room for future expansions, parking, and outdoor exhibits.

At this time, we believe this site to be the ideal location for the project; however, if other sites become available, we are open to evaluating other options. We do encourage moving the project along expeditiously and judiciously so as not to miss any opportunities.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Lewis and Clark County Board of Commissioners

Jim McCormick

Chair.

Susan Good Geise

Vice Chair

Andy Hunthausen

Member

Cc:

John Lewis, Department of Administration

Lorna Babcock Kuney