



October 22, 2010

William L Bryan, Executive Director
Rural Landscape Institute
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Bozeman MT 59715

Dear Bill:

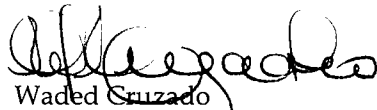
I wish to lend my support to your **"One Montana: A Rural-Urban Partnership Program"** proposal for the Packard Foundation Challenge Grant.

"One Montana" is essential for our nation's sustainability. Our country is suffering increasingly from the far reaching consequences of a growing division between rural and urban. Our rural communities are seriously threatened by the lack of sustainable economic development opportunities, quality educational resources, and adequate health care. Our urban communities are increasingly impacted by disappearing rural landscapes, energy dependence, and not knowing where their healthy foods come from. Our natural resources and accompanying working landscapes are becoming increasingly impacted by policies that reflect an urban perspective rather than basic ecological principles.

These are only a few compelling examples of why we need to change the way we think and act about rural/urban. We need to work together as "One Montana" to forge a healthy and sustainable future for our state – one that can serve as a model for other rural/urban states.

The sustainability of Montana – our ability to meet the needs of our residents now without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs – is at stake here. We all want the same things – jobs, education, health, recreation, clean air, clean water, etc. We have no choice but to unite in common purpose to create these for every single person, both rural and urban. "One Montana" will enable us to work together toward that common goal to ensure the future of our country.

Sincerely,



Waded Cruzado
President

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