

# Montana State Senate



**SENATOR CAROL WILLIAMS**  
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*The Big Sky Country*

June 11, 2009

William L. Bryan, PhD.  
Executive Director  
Rural Landscape Institute  
7 East Beall St.  
Bozeman, MT. 59717

Dear Bill:

I am happy to support your efforts to promote "One Montana: A Rural-Urban Partnership Program" and I appreciate the University of Montana's strong interest in making this program succeed.

As a member of the Montana Legislature, I have seen first hand the difficulties in making good public policy decisions that have a positive effect on all segments of Montana's very diverse population. We struggle each session to provide economic development opportunities in Rural Montana and also educate all legislators in Urban Montana on the importance to the State's economy that is provided by rural areas for our vital food source.

Other concerns we have had over the years are how to provide quality schools, higher educational opportunities and basic health care to our citizens in rural Montana. Shrinking local resources have made this difficult.

Energy development is another issue that sometimes divides our state. It is vitally important that we develop a program that will help with the nations energy needs at the same time continuing to maintain our clean and healthy environment that Montanan's demand.

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These are thorny issues but there are solutions to bringing us together to create a climate where Urban and Rural communities can thrive. We can only do this with thoughtful research, study, and input with all segments of population.

I applaud your efforts on this challenging issue and want to offer any assistance necessary to help you in your work. We must do this if Montana is going to move forward in the 21<sup>st</sup> century providing opportunities to all our state's citizens.

Call me if you have questions. (728-8735).

Sincerely,



Carol Williams

Minority Leader

Montana State Senate