

# United States Senate

December 4, 2019

Mr. Rob Manfred  
Commissioner  
Major League Baseball  
245 Park Avenue, 31st Floor  
New York, NY 10167

Dear Commissioner Manfred:

I am writing to you concerning recent reports about a Major League Baseball proposal that would sever the major league affiliations of 42 Minor League Baseball teams, including the teams in Billings, Great Falls, and Missoula, Montana.

Minor League Baseball has been an integral part of the communities in Montana since 1948 and has helped contribute to the long legacy of baseball in the state. Montana is one of the fastest growing states due its high quality of life, which includes the ability to attend Minor League Baseball games during the summer months. Due to Montana's geographical location, the closest major league team is over 500 miles away and these minor league teams are the best opportunities for Montanans to see professional baseball. Generations of Montanans have grown up watching future hall of famers such as George Brett, Trevor Hoffman, Bobby Cox, Ryne Sandberg, and Pedro Martinez and I hope that future Montanans will continue to have the opportunity to see the next generation of baseball hall of famers.

The cities of Billings, Great Falls, and Missoula have made significant investments into stadiums using public funds. Billings used \$12.5 million in public funding to build a state of the art stadium in 2008 and Great Falls and Missoula have recently made significant investments to upgrade their facilities. Montanans have been willing to make these investments as the teams support hundreds of jobs in the state and in an effort to ensure that baseball remains a part of our communities. I hope that Major League Baseball will make the same commitments to Montana communities.

I strongly urge Major League Baseball to continue supporting the long standing tradition of professional baseball in Montana and look forward to working with you to ensure that remains a reality.

Sincerely,



STEVE DAINES  
United States Senator