



Honorable Senator Steve Daines
13 S. Wilson Ave. Ste. 8
Bozeman, MT 59715

February 7, 2023

Senator Daines,

Southwest Montana supports your Gateway Community and Recreation Act. This would be a great way to help meet the needs of the visitors to the state as well as assist with local needs.

We are particularly interested in the following:

- Bolstering visitation to the Grant Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site in Deer Lodge, Montana. This working ranch continues to operate like it did in the 1880's. Increasing visitation is would be a great way to help with economic development in the town of Deer Lodge.
- Boosting visitation for the Big Hole Battlefield – tells the story of the Nez Perce Indians and helps us to educate our travelers of our indigenous tribes who were here way before gold rushes and cattle drives.
- Encouraging travelers to visit these historic sites is a great way to move more visitors around the region, helping with local economic development throughout their travels. It creates opportunity for education and history of the great outdoors.
- Helping build public-private partnerships.

Thank
you for helping the smaller areas that offer so much yet are under-utilized.

Sincerely,

Sarah Bannon
Executive Director

Sincerely,

Jocelyn Dodge
Southwest Montana President