

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

December 19, 2019

The Honorable Steven Mnuchin  
Secretary of the Treasury  
U.S. Department of the Treasury  
1500 Pennsylvania Ave. NW  
Washington, D.C. 20220

Dear Secretary Mnuchin,

We write concerning the continued issue of the debt for which Powell County, Montana is held liable by the Department of the Treasury. In a letter dated December 16, 2019, Powell County has made a settlement proposal of \$200,000 to Treasury's Debt Management Services (DMS) to settle the matter. We believe that this offer in conjunction with the good faith efforts of Powell County represent a fair proposal to resolve this situation. We urge full and fair consideration of Powell County's settlement offer and encourage you to accept it to bring this matter to a close.

As we stated in our letter of June 13, 2018, Powell County is in no financial position to pay the amount that DMS seeks. In 2014, the U.S. Coast Guard cleaned up part of the Roundhouse Site and billed Powell County over \$3.1 million. Since then, the total has escalated to \$4.1 million, an amount that represents a serious liability to the county's fiscal wellbeing. Revenues from county sources are insufficient to even begin to pay down this amount. With 18 percent of the population living in poverty, any garnishing of federal revenue sharing payments would threaten basic county services.

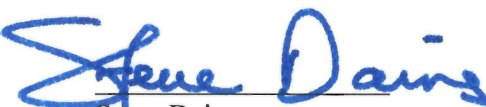
Powell County has provided multiple Audited Financial Statements and a DMS Financial Statement of Debtor proving its inability to pay. The county has made a good faith effort at remediation of the site by seeking funding from the Montana Department of Environmental Quality, the Montana Department of Natural Resource Conservation, and the EPA. Powell County has committed significant staff hours and county resources to treat the site and resolve this situation with DMS. Bankrupting the county for its efforts to clean up a long inactive site serves no purpose and only further punishes the county's residents.

Thank you for your attention to this issue. We hope the Department will act speedily to accept the County's offer and finally resolve this longstanding matter.

Sincerely,



Greg Gianforte  
U.S. Representative



Steve Daines  
U.S. Senator



Jon Tester  
U.S. Senator