

December 21, 2020

The Rural and Agriculture Council of America fully supports the Montana Headwaters Legacy Act to protect new rivers as Wild and Scenic



Dear Senator Jon Tester, Senator Steve Daines, Representative-elect Matt Rosendale, and Governor-elect/Representative Greg Gianforte:

The Rural & Agriculture Council of America (RACA) represents a consortium of mayors, county commissioners, ranchers, farmers, producers, main street business owners, and rural leaders. We are the voice of rural and agricultural America. Though our constituents vary widely in their operations and locations, availability of clean water is a fundamental need and right for all who live in rural America. The health and accessibility of water is a top priority for RACA and one that we pursue through efforts that range from grassroots to the Whitehouse.

With this in mind, the RACA adds its full support to the Montana Headwaters Legacy Act (MHLA). This legislation will apply our nation's gold standard in river protection – Wild and Scenic designation – to 17 new waterways in Southwest Montana. These rivers and streams comprise a significant portion of the headwaters for much of rural America. Their waters, preserved and enhanced by the MHLA, will flow downstream to grow our crops, nourish our livestock, supply our communities, and preserve the unique places and recreational opportunities that are so fundamental to our unique American culture.

Our water is the lifeblood of all producers and rural communities big and small. Securing its health now and for future generations is a goal that knows no political affiliation or party. Part of that goal means preserving our most valuable and deserving free-flowing rivers.

In these times of uncertainty and change we urge you to act to secure our country's legacy. Please add your bipartisan support to the Montana Headwaters Legacy Act and pass it today.

Sincerely,

Jack Alexander
President,
Rural & Agriculture Council of America