



## **Crail Ranch Homestead Museum**

**P.O. Box 161315**

**Big Sky, Montana 59716**

The Honorable Anthony Foxx  
Secretary of Transportation  
US Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Sir:

I write to support Gallatin County application for the TIGER 6 – FY14 grant. My voice and opinions generate from my community involvement in various capacities: as the former school superintendent and my current positions on the school/community foundation board as well as an historic property board.

An unincorporated area, whose expansion has occurred mainly because of a recent but decidedly permanent uptick in a 40 year old resort, the Big Sky community has progressed haltingly. Over the last five years, we have finally witnessed the emergence of key community infrastructure: a high school, a performing arts center, an inclusive community park, a critical access medical facility. In the absence of incorporation, the community relies upon a network of dedicated businesses and volunteers, now often brought together by the Chamber of Commerce, so we can grow logically.

Big Sky businesses, which largely serve the resort environment, find it challenging to thrive - survive even - with limited housing for workers. In particular, the school district suffers when staff must leave at 4 in order to travel through a dangerous canyon. Every business can cite the constraints on employee commitment that transportation and housing present, but possibly none suffer as acutely as a school district that depends upon the after-school largesse of teachers who struggle to afford to live here – a school district that has grown over 30% since 2010.

The Big Sky community exists to serve those who want to recreate in the great outdoors. The workers, who do manage to eke out an existence so they and their families can live in this area, also deserve the opportunity to recreate in the parks and trails. They deserve safe passage to the parks across highways that increasingly see high speed traffic headed to the slopes.

I support planning for all projects cited within the TIGER grant.

Respectfully,

Anne Marie Mistretta, Ph.D.  
Historic Crail Ranch Conservators, Chair