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February 19, 2009

TO: Missoula County Commissioners

FROM **Former Fair Board Commission members;** *Charlie Deschamps, Betty Jo Johnson, Michelle Felde, Kim Latrielle, Julie Gemar Williams, Kristen Bounds*

As community volunteers that have given the County years of service through the Western Montana Fair, we request that you, as our County Commissioners **support the effort and information provided us by a feasibility study for a Multi-Purpose Exposition facility for Missoula.**

It is the belief of our group that Missoula is missing too many opportunities to bring in larger events and larger conventions to our community. It is also our belief that our economy needs to diversify; we need to find ways to expand the lucrative months to twelve months per year and bring much needed revenue into our town.

Our involvement over the years as members on your Fair Board monitoring one of the larger land venues in Missoula has provided us exposure and knowledge of the lack of available large indoor venue space in this community. We believe that Missoula has lost too many opportunities to bid on equestrian, livestock, concerts and sporting events! All events bring citizens from all across Montana and surrounding states into our great city.

We believe that the County would be a perfect partner working with the private sector to accomplish such a wonderful opportunity for Missoula. This allows Missoula to gain from the strengths of the private and public sectors strengthening knowledge and expertise on the best way to get this project done.

Please support our request to work together supporting the data and information a feasibility study would provide Missoula citizens as we plan together for Missoula future.