Statement of Support for Farmland Conservation Policy in Missoula

Twenty-nine thousand acres of working farm and ranchlands have been converted to other uses in Missoula County since the mid-1980s. The time has come to create a comprehensive policy to conserve agricultural land for current and future generations. We call upon the City and County of Missoula to do the following:

1. **Designate “Agricultural Cornerstone Areas” where important agricultural resources exist in Missoula County.**
   - Prioritize the conservation of lands within designated cornerstone areas.
   - Support the cornerstone designation with fiscal and land-use policies.

2. **Adopt “Agricultural Resource Standards” to mitigate the loss of important farm and ranchlands.**
   - Create a more predictable subdivision review process.
   - Ensure new developments permanently conserve farm or ranchland of an equal or greater agricultural value as the land being converted to other uses.

3. **Implement incentives for farmland conservation.**
   - Use a broad suite of incentives to encourage and reward conservation, especially within Agricultural Cornerstone Areas.

Fertile land is the foundation of our community’s agricultural heritage. It’s time to implement a balanced strategy to secure Missoula County’s legacy of working farms and ranches.

**Endorsed by the following organizations and businesses:**

**Food & Agriculture**
- Alternative Energy Resources Organization
- American Farmland Trust
- Community Food & Agriculture Coalition
- edible Missoula
- Farm to Family Montana
- Garden City Harvest
- Grow Montana
- Lake County Community Development Corp.
- Missoula Community Food Co-op
- Montana Farmers Union
- Montana Sustainable Growers’ Union
- Western Montana Growers Cooperative

**Conservation**
- Clark Fork Coalition
- Five Valleys Audubon
- Hellgate Hunters & Anglers
- Montana Audubon
- Montana Chapter of the Sierra Club
- Montana Conservation Voters
- Montana Environmental Student Association
- Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
- Sonoran Institute
- UM Climate Action Now

**Development, Real Estate, Construction, Planning**
- Home Resource
- homeWORD
- Jeannette Williams Real Estate, Inc.
- Loken Builders
- MMW Architects
- Montana Smart Growth Coalition
- North-Missoula Community Development Corp.
- Northern Lights Development, LLC
- Portico Real Estate
- Redfield Construction, Inc.
- Sustainable Building Systems