

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2602

June 24, 2009

Ms. Carol S. Larson
President and CEO
The David and Lucile Packard Foundation
300 2nd Street
Los Altos, California 94022-3694

Dear Ms. Larson:

I am writing to you to provide my support for the "One Montana: A Rural-Urban Partnership Program." This program offers a unique opportunity to bridge the gap between our nation's rural and urban communities by creating partnerships that focus on sustainability, economic development, and preservation of our natural landscape.

In 2004, the Montana Department of Fish Wildlife and Parks reported that between 1994 and 2004, 96% of the state's income growth and employment growth occurred in and around our regional centers. Only about 14 percent of the states' population lives in relatively isolated areas. "One Montana" will facilitate cooperative efforts to build a long-term, sustainable, and prosperous future for all of Montana, urban and rural communities alike.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

