

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-2600

June 6, 2013

Mr. Thomas Hopgood  
38 Forest Park Dr  
Clancy, MT 59634-9756

Dear Mr. Hopgood:

Thank you for contacting me to express your opposition to S. 268, the Forest Jobs and Recreation Act. I appreciate hearing your views on this important issue to Montana.

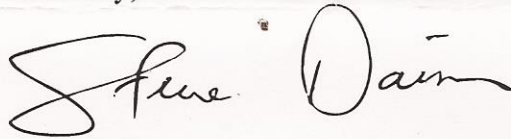
As a fifth generation Montanan and an avid outdoorsman, I know how important special access to Montana's wilderness is to our way of life. Montana's natural resources are also essential for recreation and jobs for many Montana families. I spent much of my youth backpacking in the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness. I want to preserve Montana's unparalleled natural beauty so my children and grandchildren can do the same. Unfortunately, wildfires, invasive species, and the unsustainable use of lands in Montana can jeopardize these goals, making responsible stewardship essential. Senator Jon Tester's legislation, S. 268 in the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress, is designed to sustain our forests and create more economic opportunities for Montanans, especially workers in the timber industry. I am committed to working for the same goals.

While I believe S. 268 is well-intentioned, I also believe Congress should address the concerns expressed by you and many other Montanans. For example, the measure's wilderness designations would permanently inhibit Montana from responsibly maximizing use of its natural resources, including minerals beneath the ground. Some of the affected lands have not undergone adequate geological studies for mineral excavation, potentially cutting off future job creation for Montana families. Further, I have heard from Montanans who are concerned that the legislation would undermine recreational activities important to so many Montana families. Additionally, according to Montana cattlemen, the bill restricts access to land for cattle grazing, which is a worthwhile land management tool.

In the coming weeks, I plan to work with a coalition of stakeholders in Montana who have voiced these and other concerns about Senator Tester's legislation, with the hope of strengthening the measure and building support for it in Congress. As a member of the House Natural Resources Committee, which would have jurisdiction over this legislation, I will work diligently toward this end. More broadly, I will work to ensure that Montana's natural heritage is preserved. Please know that I will keep your views in mind should the Resources Committee consider Senator Tester's legislation or related measures.

Again, thanks for contacting me. Please do not hesitate to do so in the future regarding the federal issues important to you. I also invite you to visit my website at [daines.house.gov](http://daines.house.gov) where you can find additional information on my position on a variety of issues and sign up for occasional e-mail updates on them.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Daines". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped "S" and a distinct "D".

Steve Daines  
Member of Congress

SD/dh