

Oct. 7, 2025

Gary Oakland
Oakland & Co.
175 N. 27th Street, Suite 900
Billings, MT 59101

Dear Mr. Oakland:

We write as the unanimous Bozeman City Commission on behalf of 338 working-class individuals and families living in the King Arthur and Mountain Meadows mobile home parks. We understand you're exploring options to sell those properties, and we sincerely hope you'll consider the residents – our neighbors – as you do so.

After all, Montana has a long history of Montanans stepping forward to share their good fortune with others, so we all benefit. We take care of each other. You've got several great examples in Billings alone:

In 1901, the Frederick Billings family put up \$22,000 to ensure every ranch hand's kid could have a library card. Eighty years later, a sheepherder's daughter's gift saved an aging theater and gave us the Alberta Bair.

Today in Bozeman, you have an opportunity to continue that legacy. The families in King Arthur Park and Mountain Meadow Estates are hoping for a chance to negotiate with you the purchase of your land to preserve their homes as a resident-owned community.

We, the five members of Bozeman's elected City Commission, ask for a little grace. You have the opportunity to stand with Frederick Billings, Alberta Bair, P.B. Boyd and Jon Dehler in leaving Montana a better place.

Those two mobile home parks represent 10 percent of Gallatin County's workforce-oriented, affordable mobile home stock. These are the homes, or former homes, of delivery drivers, lawmakers, bank tellers, teachers, firefighters, and families.

We admire your company's motto – "People are the foundation of our success." The residents of King Arthur and Mountain Meadows are the backbone of Montana. We could use your help keeping these residents in dignified housing that – thank you, Gary – you helped sustain over so many years.

In the 1940s, watching his beloved Big Sky Country get torn apart by prospectors hoping to cash in on the phosphorus boom, Ulm rancher Earl Monroe leased the sacred "pishkun" site to prevent its exploitation.

His protective stewardship kept what we know today as the First Peoples Buffalo Jump off-limits to mining or damage, safeguarding this cultural gem for the public.

It's easy, in today's global culture, to take what you can and let others fend for themselves. We hope you, Mr. Oakland, can find generosity in your heart to help Montanans and to build this great state.

Earl Monroe and Alberta Bair would be proud.

Sincerely,

Terry Cunningham, Mayor

Joey Morrison, Deputy Mayor

Jen Madgic, Commissioner

Emma Bode, Commissioner

Douglas Fischer, Commissioner