July 8, 2026

Alani Bankhead
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Seth Bodner
sb@sethformontana.com

Dear Alani and Seth:

As Democratic legislators, we write to both of you as supporters of your longstanding commitment to the values we share in common. We appreciate the extraordinary efforts each of you has made during this unique campaign, and we remain hopeful that this election will result in victories that preserve good government, protect individual liberty, and strengthen our democracy.

With that sincere respect, we also write to express our collective belief that the current three-candidate race for Montana's U.S. Senate seat poses a serious challenge to those goals. While reasonable people may differ in their analysis, we are deeply concerned that a race featuring a Democrat, an Independent, and a Republican substantially increases the likelihood of a Republican victory through a divided center-left vote.

Our concern extends beyond the Senate race alone. A prolonged three-way contest and the resulting divisions among voters, volunteers, donors, allied organizations, and down-ballot candidates will undoubtedly weaken Democratic and allied campaigns across the ballot. We fear the consequences could be felt in the congressional races, in competitive legislative contests throughout Montana, and on the ballot issues we all support.

We recognize that asking either of you to step aside is an extraordinary request and not one we make lightly. Nor do we presume to decide who should continue. That decision belongs to the two of you. We do, however, encourage you to evaluate the objective indicators that consistently determine whether a statewide campaign can succeed.

Among those factors are the strength and experience of the campaign organization; the ability to build a professional team for paid and earned communications, scheduling, fundraising, and voter outreach; endorsements from respected leaders and organizations; demonstrated fundraising capacity from both grassroots supporters and major donors; and credible polling that measures overall electability – testing each of you in a head-to-head race with Kurt Alme.

Based on the information currently available to us, Seth appears to have an advantage on many of these measures. At the same time, we recognize that Alani has only recently secured the

Democratic nomination and is now in a position to continue building the infrastructure necessary for a competitive statewide campaign. We acknowledge that the situation is evolving and that both of you are in the best position to assess your respective paths forward.

Time, however, is short. Every week that passes makes it more difficult to unify supporters, consolidate resources, and mount the strongest possible campaign for November. We therefore respectfully urge the two of you to meet promptly, evaluate the objective realities of the race together, and reach a mutually agreed-upon decision regarding who will continue the campaign no later than the end of July or, at the latest, by the candidate withdrawal deadline in early August.

Due to Daines' sudden withdrawal in March, Montanans have a historic opportunity to ensure one more member of the U.S. Senate who fights for the values we share. We have only this election before Daines' anointed successor, Kurt Alme, becomes Senator Kurt Alme and cements Republican control of the United States Senate. The stakes are extraordinarily high. We hope you take them seriously, look beyond your personal ambitions, and unite your efforts for the future of our state and country.

We offer this request with great respect for both of you and with gratitude for your willingness to serve Montana. Our only objective is to maximize the opportunity to elect leaders who will defend our democratic institutions and improve the lives of all Montanans

Sincerely,

Rep. Jill Cohenour HD 83	Rep. Mike Fox HD 32	Rep. Tom France HD 99
Rep. Shelly Fyant HD 91	Rep. SJ Howell HD 100	Rep. Connie Keogh HD 92
Rep. Jennifer Lynch HD 73	Rep. Marilyn Marler HD 94	Rep. Luke Muszkiewicz . HD 79
Rep. Debo Powers HD 3	Rep. Josh Seckinger HD 62	Rep. Mark Thane HD 89
Rep. Paul Tuss HD 27	Sen. Janet Ellis SD 41	Sen. Ellie Boldman SD 47
Sen. Dave Fern SD 3	Sen. Chris Pope SD 31	

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