

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 26, 2016

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Chairman
Energy and Natural Resources Committee
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Ranking Member
Energy and Natural Resources Committee
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Murkowski and Ranking Member Cantwell:


We are writing to request that our East Rosebud Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (S. 1577) as amended be included in the final version of the energy package that is currently being conferenced. Montanans have worked together for years to craft this legislation, and the entire congressional delegation for Montana supports this designation. We appreciate your help in passing this bill out of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee in July with unanimous support, and we believe that including this bipartisan proposal to the energy conference is the best path forwards for the Montanans eager to see East Rosebud Creek protected.

Montana is famous for its mountain streams and fishing opportunities, and East Rosebud Creek is a prime example of those qualities. The creek meanders down through the Custer-Gallatin National Forest in south-central Montana, presenting scenic views, jumping trout, and of course, the cold, clear water that makes Montanans proud. Our bill would protect 20 miles of the creek under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, protecting it for our kids and grandkids while ensuring that historic activities like agriculture and recreation can continue.


On the ground, folks from all walks of life have voiced their support for a designation. Homeowners organizations, local county commissioners, ranchers, local businesses, conservation groups, paddlers, and anglers all support efforts to protect this creek. All 20 miles of the creek included in our bill are on public land in the Custer-Gallatin National Forest, which deemed those sections of creek as eligible for designation in its most recent forest plan. S. 1577 is a public land management solution born out of years of local engagement and collaboration.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue. We appreciate the difficulties you both face as you work to resolve the differences between the House and Senate energy bills, and we eagerly await the chance to further discuss this legislation.

Sincerely,



Jon Tester
United States Senator



Steve Daines
United States Senator