

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

STATE OF MONTANA

Marc Racicot
GOVERNOR



STATE CAPITOL
PO BOX 200801
HELENA, MONTANA 59620-0801

May 18, 2000

Earl Sherron, Chairman
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Foundation
P.O. Box 16047 Missoula MT 59808

Dear Mr. Sherron:

Congratulations on the creation of the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Foundation I support this Foundation as a tangible, practical and achievable means for Montanans to control the destiny of some of our State's most cherished natural treasures. The challenges these resources face in the next century will not be met using traditional funding sources alone.

A goal during my tenure as Governor has been to plan and develop the infrastructure for a philanthropic base of support in Montana. Each year in Montana, government agencies and charitable organizations continue to seek to accomplish more with less and less. Endowed philanthropy is one means to help provide the financial security that allows us to devise and implement our own best strategies and solutions while reviving the spirit of giving and a sense of community. The 1997 Legislature established a 50 percent tax credit for contributions to qualified endowments, providing Montana with one of the most aggressive tax credits in the nation This tax credit was established for the purpose of encouraging new philanthropy through creation of organizations such as the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Foundation

I am committed to this idea, and offer you my full support in accomplishing the mission of the Foundation. Many thanks to you and the Board of Directors for your willingness to contribute your time, energy and resources to preserve and enhance Montana's natural, cultural and recreational resources for future generations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Marc Racicot".

MARC RACICOT
Governor