

BOARD of COMMISSIONERS

COUNTY OF CARBON • STATE OF MONTANA

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November 13, 2017

Tim Summers
30 West 14th Street, STE 301
Helena, MT 59601

RE:

Dear Mr. Summers:

We, the Carbon County Board of Commissioners, commit to continue building an age-friendly Carbon County. Over half of Carbon County's residents are age 50 or older. As the age of our population continues to increase, developing age-friendly communities is essential to serving our citizens. Joining the AARP and WHO Networks of Age-Friendly Communities will connect us with like-minded communities and provide us with a wealth of knowledge to assist us in our age-friendly endeavor.

Under the Red Lodge Area Community Foundation, an age-friendly steering committee already provides leadership in connecting people and building community. The steering committee consists of various stakeholders including: a retired AARP public policy researcher, representatives from local senior centers, the County Public Health department, multiple local health organizations, and Adult Protective Services. Interested community members are always welcome to participate in the meetings. A committee representative attends all County Board of Health meetings to update county officials on progress with the age-friendly initiatives and present opportunities to partner on projects.

The focus of our age-friendly initiative is to reach all older adults in Carbon County, hear their thoughts, and work with them to create more livable communities, unique to each community's needs. The steering committee has conducted a baseline assessment through a survey of over 100 residents and meetings with area senior citizens.

The results of the survey and proposals to address identified, needs will be shared with county and community leaders and residents to determine how the proposed solutions best address the needs of the County's residents. We anticipate a County-wide effort to

initially tackle one or two select domains of livability that reflect the most commonly expressed needs.

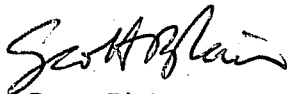
Building a community livable for people of all ages requires a sustained and focused effort. During each step of our age-friendly initiative, we will invite public comment to guide and evaluate our programming working with the Red Lodge Area Community Foundation, civic organizations, service providers, and the business community to make Carbon County more age-friendly. We look forward to joining the AARP-led network as a model of age-friendliness for rural communities in the United States.

Sincerely,

Board of Carbon County Commissioners



Doug Tucker
Presiding Officer



Scott Blain
Commissioner



Bill Bullock
Commissioner