

BEARTOOTH

RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT AREA, INC.

October 30, 2024

RE: Beartooth RC&D MOU Proposed COLA increase

Dear Mayor Cole and the City of Billings:

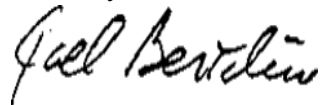
Due to increased costs of doing business, Beartooth RC&D Board of Directors has recommended raising the amount charged for providing Economic Development services to our regional partners from 19 cents per capita to 29 cents, totaling an increase of 10 cents per capita for the 2026 MOU.

However, due to Yellowstone's much larger population, we are recommending only a 7 cents per capita increase, bringing Yellowstone County's 2026 MOU to 26 cents per capita.

Beartooth RC&D feels this will allow us to offset some of the expenses we have incurred in the last seven years since last raising our MOU amounts. Expansions to our loan and grant portfolios have caused our annual audit costs to increase substantially. Additional burdens include increases to our insurances and costly requirements for new software needed to stay in compliance with our auditors.

Beartooth RC&D has been able to take advantage of funding opportunities that have benefited our entire five-county region and have resulted in meeting the needs of our communities. We will continue to conduct our work as efficiently as possible, and we hope that you will favorably consider this proposal for an increase. If you should have any questions, please contact us at 406-962-3914.

Sincerely,



Joel Bertolino, Executive Director



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