

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF MONTANA

Steve Bullock
GOVERNOR



Mike Cooney
LT. GOVERNOR

October 8, 2016

Dear Friends:

Welcome to the 2nd Annual Global Peace Foundation Forum.

You gather here to share with one another the tools and insights of how to address conflict in the workplace, our communities, and around the world. Conflict management and collaboration skills are important in all professions, whether you are the governor, a business owner, or a volunteer at a local non-profit. By fostering positive relationships between coworkers and having strong communication and conflict resolution skills, workplaces become more efficient and fulfilling to employees.

Conflict is not new to anyone, especially for those in public office. My role as governor requires me to apply strong conflict management skills when addressing issues that affect Montana. One of the greatest challenges we face currently is access to quality healthcare and rising costs. During the 2015 Legislative Session, I signed into law The HELP Act, which expanded healthcare coverage to thousands of Montanans, while reducing costs and improving access to health care across our state. This achievement reflects the collaborative and conflict management efforts between many working class Montanans, healthcare agencies, Montana's Legislature, and the Governor's Office, that ultimately benefited all Montanans.

Another successful collaborative effort has been the "Forest in Focus Initiative." Through my "Forest in Focus Initiative," \$4 million from the fire suppression account has been awarded to 25 projects and these investments are helping accelerate forest restoration to reduce fire risk, protect communities and municipal water supplies, preserve and repair key stream and fisheries all while putting logs on trucks and into Montana's mills. None of this would be possible without fostering a productive collaboration among diverse groups and stakeholders who are willing to work together to improve forest management and resolve conflicts.

The importance of conflict management and collaboration skills cannot be overstated. I commend the speakers and hosts at today's forum for drawing attention to the importance of these skills, which are used every day in the workplace and in every aspect of our lives. Working together we can continue to keep our part of the world, Montana, peaceful and the Last Best Place.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "S Bullock".

STEVE BULLOCK
Governor