



MONTANA SECRETARY OF STATE

LINDA McCULLOCH

8 October 2016

Mike Yakawich
Global Peace Foundation Forum
Billings Montana

Dear Global Peace Foundation Forum Attendees,

I am sorry I cannot be with you today. I want to thank Mike for his tireless support for the greater good in the Billings area. Mike, you make Montana a better place.

You are gathered today as invested parties to promote community trust and collaboration in relation to racial conflict and mental health and substance abuse. These are complex and polarizing issues, and you should be commended for coming together to find solutions and consensus. Such a feat will take building trust and breaking down barriers - difficult tasks, but nothing Montanans haven't done before.

As a longtime elected official and school librarian, I understand how important it is to trust your team and build partnerships, even unlikely ones. In the current political environment it is easy to ignore the opposing argument. Try to refrain from judging before listening.

Keeping communications open is a powerful tool in leadership. We can begin to find solutions when we understand each other and work together. I hope you keep this in mind today when the conversation becomes tough and emotions run high.

Thank you for your advocacy and keep fighting the good fight.

Warm regards,


Linda McCulloch
Montana Secretary of State

*Good Luck today!!
Linda*