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Speaker Paul Ryan
1233 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

October 27, 2016

Dear Speaker Ryan,

Thank you for taking the time out of your busy schedule to visit the Last Best Place on earth. While you are visiting our great state, I'd appreciate the opportunity to meet with you and discuss issues of importance to Montana.

I have a long history of bipartisan, solution-oriented work. When I took over as the head of Montana's public schools seven years ago, we saw a big problem in the state - our graduation rates. We raised them to record highs in those seven years by working with businesses, parents, teachers, and students community by community. When we convened with these community groups, I didn't ask whether they were Republican or Democrat, what their income was, or who they were supporting for President. We just did the work, together, to improve Montana. And it worked.

I'd like to take that same solution-oriented approach to work across the aisle in Congress. In that vein, I'd like to meet with you to discuss what matters to Montanans and how we can work together to fix it.

First, Montanans cherish our public lands. They are our birthright. I am deeply concerned by the movement you are leading to transfer America's public lands to individual states or to sell them off to the highest bidder. You've even included provisions to sell off public lands in your budget proposals as chairman of the House Budget Committee in recent years, and I hope you - and Congressman Zinke - know that, in Montana, that just won't fly.

Second, Montanans from across Montana have expressed their frustration that you and Congressman Zinke have actively worked over the past few years to undermine women's access to health care - cutting Title X funding for family planning and slashing support for health care facilities that serve over 20,000 Montana women and men each year. Access to health care is a right -- and in Montana - it is often hard to come by. While Montana medical providers tell us we need to be expanding access to care, you and Congressman Zinke vote to prevent that access, putting Montanans very livelihoods at risk.

Because you are the Speaker of the House, I would like to help you truly understand the needs of rural America, because they're different than the needs of you and Congressman Zinke in Washington, D.C.

I want to conclude this letter by commending you on your opposition to Donald Trump. You and I side with the hundreds of thousands of Montanans who were absolutely appalled when we heard the footage of Donald Trump bragging about sexual assault. Unfortunately, Congressman Zinke laughed Trump off as an "equal opportunity offender." With more people frustrated with Congressional dysfunction than ever before, I believe we need to leave behind this divisive rhetoric and come together to represent ALL Montanans and ALL Americans.

I look forward to your swift reply to arrange a time to discuss these issues, and I look forward to working across the aisle with you in Washington. And on behalf of all Montanans, I hope you enjoy your stay in Big Sky Country, however brief it may be.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Denise Juneau".

Denise Juneau