



March 6, 2020

Commissioner Robert Manfred  
The Office of the Commissioner of Baseball  
245 Park Avenue, 31st Floor  
New York, NY 10167

Dear Commissioner Manfred:

We write today regarding our ongoing conversations about the status of Minor League Baseball (MiLB) and your upcoming visit to Montana. We appreciate your commitment to visiting our state in the near future. We believe it is critically important for Major League Baseball (MLB) to see firsthand how dedicated folks in Great Falls, Billings, and Missoula are to supporting MiLB, and how important MiLB is to these communities and the future prosperity of MLB. We remain concerned by any proposals that would undermine the decades-long commitment these communities made to supporting Major League Baseball.

Montana does not have a major league team in any sport. In fact, we don't even border a state with a major league team. That's one reason why Montana communities value MiLB and consistently step up to the plate to support local franchises. Billings and Great Falls Pioneer League roots go back to the 1940s, and Missoula is enjoying a great deal of success over its first 20 years. These communities are proven leaders in MiLB and excellent hosts to their local teams.

It is vital that MLB and MiLB agree to terms in the next contract that honors the investment our communities have made in their teams and continues to ensure baseball thrives in rural America. We appreciate your engagement to this point and your stated willingness to travel to Montana in the near future. I know MLB would learn a lot by a visit to Montana as we all stay engaged on preserving baseball in the Pioneer League.

We stand ready to assist MLB in setting up a trip to Montana. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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Steve Bullock  
Governor of Montana

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Jon Tester  
United States Senator