From:	Peg Brownlee
To:	Grp. City Council and City Web Site
Subject:	Trapping Ordinance Proposal
Date:	Sunday, October 4, 2020 1:30:08 PM

Dear City Council members,
I just wanted to thank you for considering the changes to the trapping ordinances in and around Missoula. I totally support Ms. Merritt's efforts in this regard. These changes are rational and will enhance the safety and enjoyment of our natural environment, which we are so lucky to have here in the beautiful place we call home.
You will doubtless get some nasty and possibly threatening messages from trappers. We at Footloose have dealt with their venom and lies for years. But it only strengthens our reserve to move forward with our anti-trapping efforts on our public lands, trails, and waterways. I hope you will see through the puffed-up rhetoric of the trappers and do what is best for the public. I know you take the responsibility very seriously, and I appreciate that.
I especially support the turning-over of confiscated traps to Footloose and not to FWP. Our free trap-release workshops are immensely popular and well-attended. Having these actual examples of illegally-set traps will help to educate people on how to deal with them, should they have the unfortunate luck to encounter them. We also educate the public on the laws and rules that govern trapping. But as we know, illegally-set traps are out there, too. The penalties for this activity should and must be strengthened as a deterrent, and the public must be informed.
On behalf of wildlife, pets and humans who live in, love and use the forests, trails and waterways around Missoula, I appreciate and applaud your efforts in considering (and hopefully enacting) these changes in the ordinances. I will look forward to seeing the process move forward.

Sincerely,
Peg Brownlee
Florence, MT