From: Bob Oaks
To: Grp. City Council and City Web Site; John Engen
Subject: CDBG-CV Grant
Date: Saturday, October 2, 2021 12:39:30 PM

October 2, 2021

Dear Mayor Engen and Missoula City Council Members,

I am writing to express my support for the proposed CDBG-CV grant application for the preservation of manufactured home communities as conducted by the ROC Program of NeighborWorks Montana.

As land costs continue an exponential rise across Montana, mobile home courts are increasingly vulnerable to purchase for either upscale housing redevelopment or a change of ownership coupled with extractive lot rental increases imposed by investment conglomerates. Households forced out of these communities often face high risk for homelessness.

The ROC cooperative land ownership system is a proven approach to permanently preserve affordability for some of our community's most at-risk homeowners. Most particular to this grant opportunity, maintaining housing stability contributes to our community's COVID resilience and keeps additional pressures off our emergency housing and nutrition providers.

Through its neighborhood organizing and children's programming work, the NMCDC is intimately familiar with the benefits and problems faced by many of our neighboring manufactured home residents. I hope that the City's CDBG-CV application will be successful, and that housing stability and affordability be central to our ongoing pandemic responses. Thank you for your support of this application.

Sincerely,

Bob Oaks

E.D., NMCDC