

From: [Jim Thomas-DeJongh](#)
To: [Council](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Billings Transparency Election Initiative (TEI) Event Invitation
Date: Wednesday, January 28, 2026 8:09:24 PM



Honorable Mayor Nelson and Billings City Council,

The Montana Plan is built by Montanans for Montanans to lead the nation.

Join Governor Marc Racicot, Senator Jon Tester and Gary Buchanan as they present **The Plan.**

Community Seven event preview ...

<https://cloud.castus.tv/vod/comm7tv/video/69794a290eb0190002fb8fa6?page=HOME>

More details ...

<https://transparentelection.org/solutions>

Please come and learn on Saturday January 31, 2026 at 1 pm at Lincoln Center.

Sincerely,

Jim Thomas-DeJongh
910 Nutter Blvd
Billings, MT
Email: jtd@montanatd.net

TRANSPARENT ELECTION INITIATIVE

GUESTS SCHEDULED TO APPEAR - FORMER MONTANA GOVERNOR MARC RACICOT,
FORMER US SENATOR JON TESTER, & GARY BUCHANAN

BILLINGS

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CENTER

ENDING
CORPORATE AND
DARK MONEY IN
MONTANA
POLITICS

THE MONTANA PLAN

LINCOLN
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1:00 - 2:30PM

HOW WE 'UNDO'
CITIZENS UNITED
IN MONTANA

IN-PERSON LINCOLN CENTER
PUBLIC EVENT | EVERYONE IS WELCOME!



JANUARY 31ST

LINCOLN CENTER | SATURDAY AT 1PM

FOR MORE INFORMATION

MONTANAPLAN.COM

TEI@TRANSPARENTELECTION.ORG

From: [Deb Lutke](#)
To: [Council](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] cardboard recycle and marijuana taxes
Date: Wednesday, January 28, 2026 2:29:55 PM



Dear Council Members,

Recently KTVQ published an article on the tax amounts the state received from the sale of legalized marijuana. Could you inform the public how this money is divided up and where it is being spent?

Could you inform our City how the cardboard recycling program is doing?

Thank you,
Debrah Lutke
Ward 4
4048 Rifle Creek Trail #8
Billings, MT 59106

From: [Stephen Johnson](#)
To: [Council](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Ice
Date: Wednesday, January 28, 2026 10:13:30 AM



To our Billings council men and women. First of all, thank you for your service. I didn't attend the last meeting, but heard that people against ICE outnumbered those supporting them. Those people that are against ICE are in direct violation of federal law enforcement and I wonder if anyone are talking about that? This is being portrayed on many national networks as these savage people are out to cause tragedy to every community they enter, and my question is, do YOU believe that scenario? These are people with families of their own and are trying to just uphold the law of the land. If you put up a statement against this will be just inviting more violence against these protesters, many, of whom have been shown to be paid protesters that are on national scenes like Minneapolis. This puts not only ICE officers in danger, but our local police officers in danger, of which, one is my son. And if these protesters get their way, they just get bolder and bolder, and the violence and disrespect for any law and order get more and more. Do you really want to be a part of that, and what will you expect other criminals to expect about upholding law in our community?

One last thing to please consider...please look into the number of violent crimes committed to innocent American citizens by illegal immigrants. Is that being talked about at all by the big news companies? No, and strangely silent in a horrific arena. Shouldn't your statement on what you do about ICE reflect them before your banner is for the people that are breaking the laws of this land. And our local police, and their lives, and their families depend on people like yourselves to stand with them in respecting the laws of this land. This nation is becoming more and more a land of anarchy where loud voices rule the day...why not let the voices of Billings have a vote before you give into these people. It takes courage to do what's right, and it always will, and you will hear loudmouths if you let ICE do, as peacefully as they can, their jobs, for they are NOT a bunch of ruthless violent people, but rather doing their best to make this a more safe and law abiding country. Do you believe that or not is the question?

Thank you for your time and consideration for my thoughts, which are the thoughts of many of my neighbors and friends.

From: [John Turcotte](#)
To: [Council](#)
Cc: commission@yellowstonecountymt.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Ice
Date: Wednesday, January 28, 2026 7:08:54 AM

Dear council members,

I feel that all this rhetoric about ICE is coming from activists who are paid to stir things up only because they are anarchicist trying to destroy our constitution and our way of life. When you look at what is going on I would bet that most people writing those letters do not have a clue of what they are protesting about and if you introduced them to the people we are being protected from in person, and also the victims of these people they might reconsider their position. The job the ICE agents are performing is difficult enough and when you have radicals suggesting all local law enforcement not assist in this much needed task of getting rid of these bad guys and gals you create a very dangerous situation for EVERYONE IN THE COMMUNITY. ONE NEED TO REMEMBER WORKING TOGETHER TO ACHIEVE A GOAL FOR A SAFE CITY NEEDS ALL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES INCLUDING COURTS OR WE WILL END UP LIKE THESE LARGE CITIES DESTROYING OURSELVES FROM WITHIN. I urge everyone to understand the facts with their own research and NOT just listen to the paid advocates and news media to get their information, the leaders of the haters in most cases are not from our community and have one goal lead the band of sheep to the cliff and watch them jump off of it.

I urge everyone to approach this with caution, for death and destruction could come to the city council door if you do not support law and order from all agencies, by having them work together as one.

Regards

John Turcotte

From: leannetibesar@gmail.com
To: [Council](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Ice
Date: Wednesday, January 28, 2026 1:17:51 PM

It would be foolish to limit ICE. I trust them and want people here illegally to leave. Especially the violent criminals! Thank you!

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Cody Close](#)
To: [Council](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] No ICE in Montana !
Date: Wednesday, January 28, 2026 11:18:55 AM

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Christina Clement](#)
To: [Council](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to rezoning P1 for the Yellowstone Country Club neighborhood
Date: Wednesday, January 28, 2026 12:04:00 PM



Dear Council Member,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed request by Yellowstone Country Club to rezone three areas currently designated as P1 park/open space to suburban zoning for housing development within the Yellowstone Country Club neighborhood.

We use these trails all the time. These trails and the zoning that was established to protect them are what makes Billings a place that people want to live. With so much new development in the area it makes it even more important to maintain the zoning of areas that are intentionally zoned as open spaces.

Please hear my very sincere and strong opposition to allowing these parcels to be rezoned.

Sincerely,

Christina Clement

Billings MT

From: [Marcus Frye](#)
To: [Council](#); cwhite@yellowstonecountymt.gov; mmorse@yellowstonecountymt.gov; mwaters@yellowstonecountymt.gov
Cc: ycso@yellowstonecountymt.gov; [BPD](#).
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Statement from 406 Pride re: local government cooperation with ICE and CBP
Date: Wednesday, January 28, 2026 9:01:13 AM



Hello,

Please see the below statement from the 406 Pride Board of Directors:

Like many of you, we have witnessed the disturbing and horrific behavior of federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents and Customs and Border Protection (CBP) in Minneapolis, Chicago, Los Angeles, and across our country, including ongoing protests and unrest following the fatal shooting of Renee Good by an ICE agent in Minneapolis and the subsequent fatal shooting of Alex Pretti by a CBP agent.

In addition to the violence and unrest being caused by ICE and CBP in American cities, six people, that we know of, have died in ICE custody in the first month of 2026 alone. Their names are: Geraldo Lunas Campos, Luis Gustavo Nunez Caceres, Luis Beltran Yanez–Cruz, Parady La, Victor Manuel Diaz, and Heber Sanchaz Domínguez.

As an organization whose mission is to promote and cultivate community, acceptance, diversity, and solidarity, we feel that we have no choice but to issue a statement about what is happening in this nation. Migrants and people of color are members of the LGBTQ2S+ community. They are our neighbors, our coworkers, our allies, our friends, and most importantly, they are human beings deserving of dignity, safety, and respect. The actions of ICE and CBP not only terrorize these vulnerable communities, but they threaten to deport them to countries where being openly LGBTQ2S+ could result in physical and legal danger.

As members of the LGBTQ2S+ community, many of us know what it feels like to have powerful institutions attempt to strip away our dignity and basic rights. We stand in unwavering solidarity with migrant communities and all people who are being scapegoated and targeted by ICE, CBP, and similar organizations.

ICE and CBP do not make communities safer; they terrorize and destabilize them.

As a Billings, Montana based organization, **we call upon our city and county officials to refuse to cooperate with ICE and CBP. This means ending all mutual aid agreements and ceasing the practice of allowing ICE and CBP to detain migrants at the**

Yellowstone County Detention Facility solely based on immigration status.

We also call upon other organizations and individuals in our community to urge our elected officials to take the same stance.

No one is free until we are all free.

- 406 Pride Board of Directors

Marcus A. Frye

(he/him)

406 Pride

Board President

marcus@406pride.org





LIFTT

Living Independently for Today & Tomorrow

The LIFTT Connection
Newsletter



RideWell is Almost Here

LIFTT is close to launching RideWell, our ADA-Accessible Rural Transportation Service, connecting the aging and disability community in Eastern Montana to vital medical and social services.

[Help Us Make RideWell a Success!](#)

Change, Challenge & The Work of Becoming Stronger

"Change is rarely announced in advance, and it almost never arrives neatly packaged. More often, it shows up as uncertainty, disruption, or a difficult question we did not expect to face." begins this month's thoughts from LIFTT Executive Director Carlos Ramalho



Carlos on the Challenge of Change



Understanding Eligibility for SDPAS Services

LIFTT is a provider of Self-Directed Personal Assistance Services (SDPAS) through Montana Medicaid. Also known as the Personal Care Assistance (PCA) program, the care SDPAS provides to consumers is vital in keeping

them at home and in the community.

What are the eligibility requirements for SDPAS? How do I find out if my loved one or I can use this service?

LIFTT Receives Community Support from Glendive Medical Center

Living Independently for Today & Tomorrow (LIFTT), a nonprofit Center for Independent Living serving South Central and Eastern Montana, is pleased to announce it has received a generous donation from Glendive Medical Center (GMC) in support of LIFTT's mission to promote independence, accessibility, and community inclusion for people with disabilities living in rural Montana.



GMC gift to LIFTT reflects shared commitment to a healthy Eastern Montana



From an Institution to Independence

LIFTT's Money Follow the Person (MFP) Team works to help move people with disabilities from isolation in institutions to independence in the community.

Changing Lives One Move at a Time

Creative Aging Painting Class Starts @ LIFTT

Studies have shown that engaging in creative activities helps keep a person's mind sharp as they age. That's why LIFTT is proud to have added to its Brain Health program with a "Creative Aging" Painting Class made possible through a grant from the Montana Arts Council.



Art That Expands Brain Health, Fights Ageism, and Empowers Every Artist



Empowerment begins with Information

At LIFTT, success is not measured only by the services someone receives. It is also measured by the knowledge gained, the options clarified, and the confidence restored. Sometimes,

empowerment begins with a conversation.

Such is the case of Myra, who reached out to LIFTT as she prepared for an upcoming arm surgery.

[Learn More about Myra's Story](#)

Why What LIFTT Does Matters

LIFTT IL Program Manager Pamela Rameriz offers these thoughts about the importance of the programs and services that LIFTT offers the disability community throughout our 18-county service area.



"Respect, choice, and dignity are not ideals we reference; they are principles we practice."



Data Tells a Story, People Give it Meaning

LIFTT's Data & Quality Control Manager, Freda Mook, discusses how LIFTT uses the data it collects to inform our engagement with consumers and ensure we are doing our best to provide the programs and services they want and need to become and remain

independent.

"When data is paired with human insight, it becomes a powerful tool for learning, reflection, and action."

LIFTT Awarded AgWest Farm Credit Rural Community Grant

LIFTT is pleased to announce it has been awarded funds through [AgWest Farm Credit's](#) Rural Community Grant Program. The funds will support efforts to strengthen accessibility, independence, and community inclusion for people with disabilities living in rural Montana communities.



AgWest grant is a "commitment to rural vitality and accessibility."

Support LIFTT's Mission and Vision

In this era of uncertain federal, state, and foundation support, your contributions are more vital than ever.

Any amount you give will go directly to supporting LIFTT's programs and services, which promote independence and self-determination for elders and people with disabilities in our region.

[Donate to LIFTT Today!](#)



Living Independently for Today & Tomorrow (LIFTT)

1241 Crawford Drive, Billings, MT 59102 · [\(406\) 259-5181](tel:4062595181)

119 South Kendrick Avenue, Glendive, MT 59330 · [\(406\) 948-8500](tel:4069488500)

LIFTT is a Montana 501(c)3 corporation organized as a Center for Independent Living (CIL). With team members based in Billings and Glendive, LIFTT provides aging and disabled members of the community with programs and services that help empower them to break down the physical, bureaucratic, and cultural barriers that prevent them from being fully independent participants in their lives and communities throughout 18 counties in southeastern and south-central Montana: Big Horn, Carbon, Carter, Custer, Dawson, Fallon, Garfield, Golden Valley, McCone, Musselshell, Powder River, Prairie, Richland, Rosebud, Stillwater, Treasure, Wibaux, and Yellowstone.

Our Vision: Empowering aging and disabled individuals to LIFTT themselves above the barriers of life.

Our Mission: Living Independently for Today & Tomorrow (LIFTT) empowers aging and disabled individuals to live independently through education, support, and opportunities.

LIFTT is partly funded through contracts and grants from the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services, USAging, National Aging and Disability Transportation Center, and the Administration for Community Living, United States Department of Health and Human Services. The statements herein do not necessarily reflect the opinion of DPHHS, USAging, NADTC, ACL, or HHS.

[Support Independent Living in Montana by Donating to LIFTT Today!](#)



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From: [Peterson, Loren](#)
To: [.MayorAndCouncil](#)
Cc: [Sprock, Jeffry](#); [Gilbert, Steve](#)
Subject: Phishing email
Date: Wednesday, January 28, 2026 2:01:38 PM

Mayor and Council,

Around 7:50 am this morning, 1/28/26, an email was sent to all council members from councilpresident474@gmail.com masquerading as Mayor Nelson. Please do not respond to this email as it is a phishing email attempting to get you to buy some gift cards. I have blocked the sender from our system but these types of emails are sent regularly from gmail accounts. If you get an email that you think is suspicious please forward it to spam@billingsmt.gov so our team can decide if it is legit or not. You can also verify with the sender if you are questioning the legitimacy of an email. To do this you should call them do not reply to the message as you will be replying to the bad actor. Please reach out if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you!



Loren Peterson
IT Security Engineer
peterstonl@billingsmt.gov
[View my credentials](#)

billingsmt.gov

316 N. 26th St.
Billings, MT 59101
P 406.657.3099

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From: [Shaw, Kendra](#)
To: [Deb Lutke](#); [Council](#)
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] cardboard recycle and marijuana taxes
Date: Wednesday, January 28, 2026 8:55:47 PM

Dear Debrah,

I can tackle the first one! Marijuana taxes are paid directly to the state, so local governments do not see this revenue—with one exception. The state legislature allowed counties to vote on an **additional 3%** tax that gets split proportionally among all cities in that county, and county government. Thankfully the residents of Yellowstone County voted yes! Using round numbers, I believe Billings' share started around \$400,000/year and may be up to \$550,000-ish/year? I'd need the finance director to confirm, but it's in that ballpark.

City staff and council have put that money into a crime prevention fund that also includes 2 mills approved by voters in the 2021 public safety levy. Those mills were called out on the ballot, and in dozens of public meetings, as earmarked to address community challenges like mental health and substance use disorder.

In the last few years, funding from the safety levy + marijuana tax revenue has supported:

1. Nurse Family Partnerships at Riverstone Health—an evidence-based home-visiting program for vulnerable expectant mothers
2. Northern Lights Family Justice Center
3. Crisis Response Units—pairing fire department EMTs with a mental health professional to respond to relevant first responder calls
4. Helping fund the 72-hour holding facility at Yellowstone Detention Facility. When there's room at the jail, BPD's able to run a program called MAAP (Motivated Addiction Alternative Program) in partnership with Rimrock Foundation. This provides a diversion path from the jail to treatment for those with repeated substance abuse related charges (such as frequent open container violations)

It's incumbent on me as city council member to point out the state receives a whopping 20% tax on all recreational marijuana products. Yet the communities directly impacted by legalization—Billings, for example—receive a fraction of 3%.

Kendra Shaw
Councilwoman, Ward 1
Text: (406) 670-7772

From: Deb Lutke <deblutke@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 28, 2026 2:29 PM
To: Council <council@billingsmt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] cardboard recycle and marijuana taxes



Dear Council Members,

Recently KTVQ published an article on the tax amounts the state received from the sale of legalized marijuana. Could you inform the public how this money is divided up and where it

is being spent?

Could you inform our City how the cardboard recycling program is doing?

Thank you,
Debrah Lutke
Ward 4
4048 Rifle Creek Trail #8
Billings, MT 59106

From: [Nowakowski, Sonja](#)
To: [Erin Anderson](#); r8eisc@epa.gov; tribbett.kate@epa.gov; [Hoogerheide, Roger](#); payne.joe@epa.gov; [Fehr, James](#); [Stone, Kevin](#); [Council](#); [Bohman, Denise](#); [Erickson, Timothy](#); 1glennfoy@gmail.com; stears@fiberpipe.net; erin.robbsins@mdu.com; neil@secondnature.consulting; rhafer@highplainsarchitects.com
Cc: speakup@billingsgazette.com; info@yellowstonecountynews.com; news@kulr.com; pohnemus@kulr.com; news@ktvq.com; heather@montanafreepress.org; amanda@montanafreepress.org; tips@montanafreepress.org; news@mtpr.org; ellis.juhlin@mso.umd.edu; dianne.parker@ktvq.com; press@vice.com; issues.pitches@vice.com; oliver.milman@theguardian.com; dharna.noor@theguardian.com; jessica.glenza@theguardian.com
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Formal Statement of Health Concerns, Environmental Exposure, Violent Crime, and Request for Accountability – Billings, MT Superfund Plume & Refinery Wastewater
Date: Wednesday, January 28, 2026 9:17:27 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)



Ms. Anderson,

Thanks for reaching out. I recognize the complexity of your concerns. If you would like to visit with DEQ staff about our regulatory role as it relates to some items discussed in your outreach, let us know.

Much appreciated,

Sonja



SONJA NOWAKOWSKI | *Director*

Montana Department of Environmental Quality

DESK: 406-444-0496 **MOBILE:** 406-502-8997

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [X](#) | [YouTube](#)

How did we do? Let us know here: [Feedback Survey](#)

From: Erin Anderson <erinkayanderson7@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, January 23, 2026 3:05 PM

To: r8eisc@epa.gov; tribbett.kate@epa.gov; [Hoogerheide, Roger](mailto:Hoogerheide.roger@epa.gov); payne.joe@epa.gov; [Nowakowski, Sonja](mailto:Nowakowski.Sonja@mt.gov); [Fehr, James](mailto:Fehr.James@mt.gov); [Stone, Kevin](mailto:Kevin.Stone@mt.gov); [Council](mailto:Council@billingsmt.gov); bohlmand@billingsmt.gov; [Erickson, Timothy](mailto:Timothy.Erickson@hdrinc.com); 1glennfoy@gmail.com; stears@fiberpipe.net; erin.robbsins@mdu.com; neil@secondnature.consulting; rhafer@highplainsarchitects.com

Cc: speakup@billingsgazette.com; info@yellowstonecountynews.com; news@kulr.com; pohnemus@kulr.com; news@ktvq.com; heather@montanafreepress.org; amanda@montanafreepress.org; tips@montanafreepress.org; news@mtpr.org; ellis.juhlin@mso.umd.edu; dianne.parker@ktvq.com; press@vice.com; issues.pitches@vice.com; oliver.milman@theguardian.com; dharna.noor@theguardian.com; jessica.glenza@theguardian.com

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Formal Statement of Health Concerns, Environmental Exposure, Violent Crime, and Request for Accountability – Billings, MT Superfund Plume & Refinery Wastewater

Dear Public Service Officials, Counsel, and Press,

This executive brief is submitted as a summary reference only and should not be treated as a substitute for the full written statement provided. I strongly encourage counsel, commissioners, and decision-makers to read the full statement in its entirety and, where applicable, to enter the full statement into record during upcoming hearings, as it

contains critical lived experience, contextual detail, and evidentiary framing that cannot be adequately captured in a brief summary.

I am including all recipients on this email intentionally, in the interest of transparency and accountability. I respectfully request that responses be made to the group collectively so I can confirm this statement has been received, reviewed, and entered into consideration.

I want to be transparent that I am copying contacts at both local and national news outlets on this outreach, in order to ensure that this story—and the stories of the people and families in the Billings community—is heard and taken seriously.

Overview of Concerns

This submission outlines serious concerns regarding prolonged exposure to

1. contaminated water from local refineries, 2. vapor intrusion risks associated with the Billings Superfund plume (including PCE), and the cumulative impacts of environmental pollution on public health and community safety in Billings, Montana.

This is a two part story that runs parallel to the other.

Key Points for Consideration

• Exposure & Notification Failures:

From December 2022 through December 2024, I lived and worked within the boundaries of the Billings Superfund plume without awareness of the designation. There was insufficient public-facing notice, community outreach, or accessible online communication to reasonably inform residents and workers of exposure risks.

• Health Impacts:

I experienced persistent fatigue, nausea, eye irritation, and systemic symptoms during this period. In October 2025, I was diagnosed with breast cancer. Genetic testing confirmed my cancer is not genetic.

It is well established that only 5–10% of cancers are hereditary, while 90–95% are influenced by environmental and lifestyle factors, including chemical exposures.

• Intergenerational Context:

My mother was diagnosed with the same type of breast cancer 13 years ago and has lived and worked in downtown Billings for decades, also within plume-affected areas. In recent months, I have spoken with at least 20 women from Billings who have experienced breast cancer, raising concern for multi-generational environmental exposure patterns.

• Broader Disease Trends:

These concerns extend beyond breast cancer to include rising rates of other cancers and autoimmune conditions observed nationally and locally over the past 10–20 years, which research increasingly links to long-term environmental toxin exposure.

• Public Safety & Violent Crime:

Billings continues to experience violent crime rates more than double the national average. Emerging peer-reviewed research indicates correlations between environmental pollution—particularly air and industrial contaminants—and increased aggression, impaired neurological regulation, and higher rates of violent incidents. Environmental stressors should be evaluated as contributing factors to public safety outcomes.

• Equity Considerations:

The communities most affected by plume exposure are disproportionately low-income and racially marginalized. These patterns reflect environmental injustice and warrant corrective action beyond minimum regulatory compliance.

Requests for Action

1. Immediate remediation of contaminated sites and vapor intrusion risks.
2. Compensation for residents, workers, and businesses for health impacts, lost income, and economic harm. (This extends beyond just the area of the Superfund Plume) as all residents are affected by contaminants in Billings' water supply
3. Stronger EPA enforcement and increased fines for refinery violations, past and ongoing.
4. Wastewater and cleanup standards aligned with actual health safety thresholds, not minimum federal compliance.
5. Recognition that delays since the 1990s represent systemic failure requiring urgent correction.

Again, this brief is intended to guide review, not replace the full statement. The full submission provides necessary narrative, professional context, and lived experience that should be considered by all officials and counsel evaluating these issues.

With gratitude and deep encouragement for response,

Erin Anderson
Currently Residing in Missoula, Montana
Hometown: Billings, Montana

From: [Aguirre, Amy](#)
To: [Erin Anderson](#); [Sonja Nowakowski](#)
Cc: [r8eisc@epa.gov](#); [tribbett.kate@epa.gov](#); [Roger Hoogerheide](#); [payne.joe@epa.gov](#); [James Fehr](#); [Kevin Stone](#); [Council](#); [Bohlman, Denise](#); [Timothy Erickson](#); [1glennoy@gmail.com](#); [steers@fiberpipe.net](#); [erin.robbs@mdu.com](#); [neil@secondnature.consulting](#); [rhafer@highplainsarchitects.com](#); [speakup@billingsgazette.com](#); [info@yellowstonecountynews.com](#); [news@kulr.com](#); [pohnemus@kulr.com](#); [news@ktvq.com](#); [heather@montanafreepress.org](#); [amanda@montanafreepress.org](#); [tips@montanafreepress.org](#); [news@mtpr.org](#); [ellis.juhlin@mso.umt.edu](#); [dianne.parker@ktvq.com](#); [press@vice.com](#); [issues.pitches@vice.com](#); [oliver.milman@theguardian.com](#); [dharna.noor@theguardian.com](#); [jessica.glenza@theguardian.com](#)
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Formal Statement of Health Concerns, Environmental Exposure, Violent Crime, and Request for Accountability – Billings, MT Superfund Plume & Refinery Wastewater
Date: Wednesday, January 28, 2026 8:27:29 PM

Sonja,
Thank you for making yourself available to Erin. Please let me know if I can be of any assistance.

Amy Aguirre
Ward3

From: Erin Anderson <erinkayanderson7@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 28, 2026 10:27 AM
To: Sonja Nowakowski <Sonja.Nowakowski@mt.gov>
Cc: [r8eisc@epa.gov](#); [tribbett.kate@epa.gov](#); [Roger Hoogerheide](#) <[hoogerheide.roger@epa.gov](#)>; [payne.joe@epa.gov](#); [James Fehr](#) <[james.fehr@mt.gov](#)>; [Kevin Stone](#) <[Kevin.Stone@mt.gov](#)>; [Council](#) <[council@billingsmt.gov](#)>; [Bohlman, Denise](#) <[bohlmand@billingsmt.gov](#)>; [Timothy Erickson](#) <[timothy.erickson@hdrinc.com](#)>; [1glennoy@gmail.com](#); [steers@fiberpipe.net](#); [erin.robbs@mdu.com](#); [neil@secondnature.consulting](#); [rhafer@highplainsarchitects.com](#); [speakup@billingsgazette.com](#); [info@yellowstonecountynews.com](#); [news@kulr.com](#); [pohnemus@kulr.com](#); [news@ktvq.com](#); [heather@montanafreepress.org](#); [amanda@montanafreepress.org](#); [tips@montanafreepress.org](#); [news@mtpr.org](#); [ellis.juhlin@mso.umt.edu](#); [dianne.parker@ktvq.com](#); [press@vice.com](#); [issues.pitches@vice.com](#); [oliver.milman@theguardian.com](#); [dharna.noor@theguardian.com](#); [jessica.glenza@theguardian.com](#)
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Formal Statement of Health Concerns, Environmental Exposure, Violent Crime, and Request for Accountability – Billings, MT Superfund Plume & Refinery Wastewater



Dear Sonja,

Thank you for your response. I very much appreciate it, and I also want to thank you for recognizing the complexity of my concerns.

I am deeply concerned for my family who still lives in Billings, as well as for my friends and their children there. I understand that this remediation process is not something that can happen overnight; however, I do believe that there has been negligence involved.

With that in mind, I would very much like to speak with someone—specifically DEQ staff—about regulatory roles related to this situation. If those roles cannot currently be fulfilled, or if there are gaps between DEQ and the EPA at this time, I would also like to understand what types of community-based assistance or support may be needed to help move this process forward.

Thank you again for your time and consideration. I look forward to continuing this conversation.

With gratitude,

Erin

Erin Kay Anderson
Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 28, 2026, at 9:17 AM, Nowakowski, Sonja
<Sonja.Nowakowski@mt.gov> wrote:

Ms. Anderson,
Thanks for reaching out. I recognize the complexity of your concerns. If you would like to visit with DEQ staff about our regulatory role as it relates to some items discussed in your outreach, let us know.
Much appreciated,
Sonja

<image001.png>

SONJA NOWAKOWSKI | *Director*

Montana Department of Environmental Quality

DESK: 406-444-0496 **MOBILE:** 406-502-8997

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [X](#) | [YouTube](#)

How did we do? Let us know here: [Feedback Survey](#)

From: Erin Anderson <erinkayanderson7@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, January 23, 2026 3:05 PM

To: r8eisc@epa.gov; tribbett.kate@epa.gov; Hoogerheide, Roger <hoogerheide.roger@epa.gov>; payne.joe@epa.gov; Nowakowski, Sonja <Sonja.Nowakowski@mt.gov>; Fehr, James <james.fehr@mt.gov>; Stone, Kevin <Kevin.Stone@mt.gov>; Council@billingsmt.gov; bohlmand@billingsmt.gov; Erickson, Timothy <Timothy.Erickson@hdrinc.com>; 1glennfoy@gmail.com; stears@fiberpipe.net; erin.robbs@mdu.com; neil@secondnature.consulting; rhafer@highplainsarchitects.com

Cc: speakup@billingsgazette.com; info@yellowstonecountynews.com; news@kulr.com; pohnemus@kulr.com; news@ktvq.com; heather@montanafreepress.org; amanda@montanafreepress.org; tips@montanafreepress.org; news@mtpr.org; ellis.juhlin@mso.umt.edu; dianne.parker@ktvq.com; press@vice.com; issues.pitches@vice.com; oliver.milman@theguardian.com; dharna.noor@theguardian.com; jessica.glenza@theguardian.com

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Formal Statement of Health Concerns, Environmental Exposure, Violent Crime, and Request for Accountability – Billings, MT Superfund Plume & Refinery Wastewater

Dear Public Service Officials, Counsel, and Press,

This executive brief is submitted as a summary reference only and should not be treated as a substitute for the full written statement provided. I strongly encourage counsel, commissioners, and decision-makers to read the full statement in its entirety and, where applicable, to enter the full statement into record during upcoming hearings, as it contains critical lived experience, contextual detail, and evidentiary framing that cannot be adequately captured in a brief summary.

I am including all recipients on this email intentionally, in the interest of transparency and accountability. I respectfully request that responses be made to the group collectively so I can confirm this statement has been received, reviewed, and entered into consideration.

I want to be transparent that I am copying contacts at both local and national news outlets on this outreach, in order to ensure that this story—and the stories of the people and families in the Billings community—is heard and taken seriously.

Overview of Concerns

This submission outlines serious concerns regarding prolonged exposure to 1. contaminated water from local refineries, 2. vapor intrusion risks associated with the Billings Superfund plume (including PCE), and the cumulative impacts of environmental pollution on public health and community safety in Billings, Montana.

This is a two part story that runs parallel to the other.

Key Points for Consideration

• Exposure & Notification Failures:

From December 2022 through December 2024, I lived and worked within the boundaries of the Billings Superfund plume without awareness of the designation. There was insufficient public-facing notice, community outreach, or accessible online communication to reasonably inform residents and workers of exposure risks.

• Health Impacts:

I experienced persistent fatigue, nausea, eye irritation, and systemic symptoms during this period. In October 2025, I was diagnosed with breast cancer. Genetic testing confirmed my cancer is not genetic.

It is well established that only 5–10% of cancers are hereditary, while 90–95% are influenced by environmental and lifestyle factors, including chemical exposures.

• Intergenerational Context:

My mother was diagnosed with the same type of breast cancer 13 years ago and has lived and worked in downtown Billings for decades, also within plume-affected areas. In recent months, I have spoken with at least 20 women from Billings who have experienced breast cancer, raising concern for multi-generational environmental exposure patterns.

• Broader Disease Trends:

These concerns extend beyond breast cancer to include rising rates of other cancers and autoimmune conditions observed nationally and locally over the past 10–20 years, which research increasingly links to long-term environmental toxin exposure.

• Public Safety & Violent Crime:

Billings continues to experience violent crime rates more than double the national average. Emerging peer-reviewed research indicates correlations between environmental pollution—particularly air and industrial contaminants—and increased aggression, impaired neurological regulation, and higher rates of violent incidents. Environmental stressors should be evaluated as contributing factors to public safety outcomes.

• Equity Considerations:

The communities most affected by plume exposure are disproportionately low-income and racially marginalized. These patterns reflect environmental injustice and warrant corrective action beyond minimum regulatory compliance.

Requests for Action

1. Immediate remediation of contaminated sites and vapor intrusion risks.
2. Compensation for residents, workers, and businesses for health impacts, lost income, and economic harm. (This extends beyond just the area of the Superfund Plume) as all residents are affected by contaminants in Billings' water supply
3. Stronger EPA enforcement and increased fines for refinery violations, past and ongoing.
4. Wastewater and cleanup standards aligned with actual health safety thresholds, not minimum federal compliance.
5. Recognition that delays since the 1990s represent systemic failure requiring urgent correction.

Again, this brief is intended to guide review, not replace the full statement. The full submission provides necessary narrative, professional context, and lived experience that should be considered by all officials and counsel evaluating these issues.

With gratitude and deep encouragement for response,

Erin Anderson
Currently Residing in Missoula, Montana
Hometown: Billings, Montana

From: [Erin Anderson](#)
To: [Sonja Nowakowski](#)
Cc: r8eisc@epa.gov; tribbett.kate@epa.gov; [Roger Hoogerheide](#); payne.joe@epa.gov; [James Fehr](#); [Kevin Stone](#); [Council](#); [Bohlman, Denise](#); [Timothy Erickson](#); 1glenfof@gmail.com; steers@fiberpipe.net; erin.robbs@mdu.com; neil@secondnature.consulting; rhafer@highplainsarchitects.com; speakup@billingsgazette.com; info@yellowstonecountynews.com; news@kulr.com; pohnemus@kulr.com; news@ktvq.com; heather@montanafreepress.org; amanda@montanafreepress.org; tips@montanafreepress.org; news@mtpr.org; ellis.juhlin@mso.umt.edu; dianne.parker@ktvq.com; press@vice.com; issues.pitches@vice.com; oliver.milman@theguardian.com; dharna.noor@theguardian.com; jessica.glenza@theguardian.com
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Formal Statement of Health Concerns, Environmental Exposure, Violent Crime, and Request for Accountability – Billings, MT Superfund Plume & Refinery Wastewater
Date: Wednesday, January 28, 2026 12:24:43 PM



Dear Sonja,

Thank you for your response. I very much appreciate it, and I also want to thank you for recognizing the complexity of my concerns.

I am deeply concerned for my family who still lives in Billings, as well as for my friends and their children there. I understand that this remediation process is not something that can happen overnight; however, I do believe that there has been negligence involved.

With that in mind, I would very much like to speak with someone—specifically DEQ staff—about regulatory roles related to this situation. If those roles cannot currently be fulfilled, or if there are gaps between DEQ and the EPA at this time, I would also like to understand what types of community-based assistance or support may be needed to help move this process forward.

Thank you again for your time and consideration. I look forward to continuing this conversation.

With gratitude,

Erin

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Cc: speakup@billingsgazette.com; info@yellowstonecountynews.com; news@kulr.com; pohnemus@kulr.com; news@ktvq.com; heather@montanafreepress.org; amanda@montanafreepress.org; tips@montanafreepress.org; news@mtpr.org; ellis.juhlin@mso.umn.edu; dianne.parker@ktvq.com; press@vice.com; issues.pitches@vice.com; oliver.milman@theguardian.com; dharna.noor@theguardian.com; jessica.glenza@theguardian.com

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With gratitude and deep encouragement for response,

Erin Anderson
Currently Residing in Missoula, Montana
Hometown: Billings, Montana

From: [St. John, Rich](#)
To: [katie harrison](#)
Cc: [Kukulski, Chris](#); [MayorAndCouncil](#); [Krivitz, Brian](#); harperrd@billingsmt.gov
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Police Staff Directory still needs updating
Date: Wednesday, January 28, 2026 6:55:12 AM

Working on it. This interfaces with the city's website and involves IT.

Rich St. John

On Jan 27, 2026, at 5:01 PM, katie harrison <sustainabillings@gmail.com> wrote:



Hi all!

I was looking at the police staff directory just now and realized that there is still some outdated information on the site.

<https://www.billingsmt.gov/directory.aspx?did=10>

When I last phoned the Office of Professional Standards on Dec 31 looking for Captain Harper (who is still listed as the Captain of that office), I was instead called back by Lieutenant Krivitz who said that Harper "is no longer with us". I am assuming that Krivitz is now in charge of that office? But I did not ask him directly about that.

I'm not sure what other updates may possibly need to be made but I just wanted to let you all know on that.

Have a great evening everyone,

Katie Harrison (She / Her)

**Residing on the traditional lands of the Salish, Kootenai, Kalispel, Apsáalooke (Crow), and Cheyenne peoples, among many others who share this land. I recognize that we are settlers to this land and dedicate myself to honoring this history and these peoples, listening and learning, and working to repair the harms of colonization by teaching a new generation of civic leaders and supporting the work of our Native partners.*

From: [Sprock, Jeffry](#)
To: [All City Email Employees](#); [MayorAndCouncil](#)
Subject: URGENT PLEASE READ: Active Email Compromise and Credential Theft Campaign
Date: Wednesday, January 28, 2026 8:55:03 AM
Attachments: [Phony Email Screenshot .png](#)
Importance: High

All,

Please read this entire email

IT is responding to an active and sophisticated email compromise campaign that is currently affecting the City of Billings and other organizations across the state.

You may receive or have received an email that appears to be a legitimate Microsoft file-sharing notification (for example: "So-and-so has invited you to edit a file") from someone you know. These messages are carefully crafted to look authentic and include a PDF and a link that appears to be hosted by Microsoft. **They are not legitimate.** See attached email as an example of what we are dealing with.

If clicked, the link directs you to a fake Microsoft login page designed to capture your username and password. After credentials are entered, the attacker will trigger a Duo authentication request that appears to come from the City. **It is not legitimate.** Approving this Duo request gives the attacker access to your account.

This campaign initially affected a small number of users and is now spreading. It is being actively managed by an external threat actor and poses a serious risk to the organization, including access to email and files.

A few important things to watch for:

- These messages are often generic and lack specific context.
- Legitimate file shares usually have clear details and are tied to a conversation you have already had with a coworker.
- Unexpected emails asking you to review, edit, or open a document should always be treated with caution.

If something feels even slightly off, **do not click**. It is far better for IT to review and verify a message than for someone to click through an unsafe link.

What you need to do immediately:

- Be extremely cautious with emails, especially file-sharing invitations or document links.
- Be especially cautious when viewing email on your phone. Mobile viewing makes it easier to miss details that indicate an email is fraudulent.
- Do not click links or open attachments unless you are expecting them and have verified the sender.
- **If you receive a suspicious email, forward it immediately to Loren**

Peterson, Security Engineer, or report it to IT.

- If you believe you clicked a link, entered credentials, or approved a Duo request—even accidentally—**contact IT immediately**.

There is no blame or embarrassment in reporting this. Early notification is critical to containing the threat and protecting the organization.

Thank you for your attention and for exercising extra caution over the coming weeks.

Sincerely,

Jeff Sprock

IT Director

City of Billings

Work: (406) 657-8387

E-mail: sprockj@billingsmt.gov



This e-mail transmission from the City of Billings, and any documents, files, or previous e-mail messages attached to it, are intended solely for the individual(s) to whom it is addressed and may contain information that is confidential, legally privileged, and/or exempt from disclosure under applicable law. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any unauthorized review, forwarding, printing, copying, distribution, or use of this transmission or the information it contains is strictly prohibited. A misdirected transmission does not constitute waiver of any applicable privilege. If you received this transmission in error, please immediately notify the sender and delete the original transmission and its attachments. Thank you.