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The Access Fund

I represent a group called The Access Fund. This organization works to secure land for the public to use for climbing. The Access Fund is a gift to all climbers in Montana and throughout the country. Because Montana is such an amazing place for climbing and mountaineering, I wish to focus my influence on securing land to keep this great sport legal and easy to access for all.

One issue plaguing Montana currently is access to the ice climbing in Hyalite Canyon, south of Bozeman. This climbing area is one of the best destination climbing areas in the country. In addition to satisfying climbers from around the world, the canyons attraction creates a niche economy in Bozeman. Closure has been threatened in the canyon, making access difficult or impossible. In addition, it would be very convenient for climbers if the road were plowed, at least a few times per season. I aim to support the continuation of the current access plan for the canyon, and any bill that may aid in the fight.

Montana is home to some of the most amazing rock climbing in America. While much of the rock is easy to access, much of the climbing lies on private land, making access not only difficult, but also illegal. As a member of the access fun, I aim to secure as much land as possible for climbers to play on. Areas with great climbing on private land include the boulder batholith of Southwest Montana, Cragy areas surrounding the Beartooth wilderness, and areas around Glacier National Park in Northwest Montana.

It has also come to my attention that a bill is on the table proposing that Montana secede from the United States of America. In secession, Montana would also offer Wyoming a tantalizing trade; Eastern Montana in exchange for the Tetons. This bill is a gem for access. Montana rock climbers would no longer have to deal with federal laws prohibiting access. Also, to have both the Beartooth Range and The Tetons in one state would truly put Montana on the Map as *the* destination for mountaineering in the Lower 48 (or lower 47 if the bill goes through). I will wholeheartedly support this bill.

I, like many others, have found solace in climbing. We cannot let access to future generations of climbers be hurt by harmful legislation. I aim not only to secure the same climbing rights for our children, but also to improve upon them for climbers later on down the road.

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