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Earth Force:

I represent eco-focused citizens who see education as the pivotal factor in maintaining a healthy environment. We support programs and funding that provide Montana children with knowledge to be aware of the problems facing our environment.

Environmental education is crucial in today's world and future as global warming is becoming a more critical concern. Earth Force sees educating children as a crucial factor to sustaining our planet. Connecting children with the natural world through programs and projects outside the classroom, such as school gardens, habitat restoration and communicating their experience in nature through other educational mediums as poetry and painting will give the world optimism. If children have a relationship with the natural world they will be more passionate and determined to save it. Some problems that our youth will have to solve:

- 14,000 oil spills that are reported every year
- Carbon dioxide emissions have increased 20% in the past fifteen years.
- 38% of arsenic emissions are from utility coal boilers.
- Almost 40,000 species are extinct every year due to pollution and destruction of habitat.

Through promoting environmental education, Earth Force hopes to solve these problems. By increasing the capacity of states to develop and deliver comprehensive statewide environmental education programs, we strive to encourage children to pursue environmental careers that will sustain our habitat.

I will support legislation that encourages environmental education in schools and after-school programs.

*This document is in compliance with the Montana YMCA Youth Legislature Lobbyist Disclosure Policy.*