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# United States Senate

February 11, 2022

The Honorable Joe Manchin  
Chairman  
Energy and Natural Resources Committee  
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable John Barrasso  
Ranking Member  
Energy and Natural Resources Committee  
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Manchin and Ranking Member Barrasso:

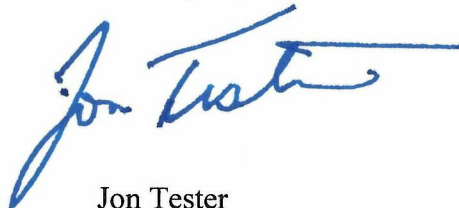
I am writing to request a hearing for my *Montana Headwaters Legacy Act (S. 2254)* before the Energy and Natural Resources Committee. This grassroots legislation will protect some of Montana's most iconic rivers and the world-class fisheries and boating opportunities on those rivers.

Montana's rivers are a key piece of Montana's \$7.1 billion outdoor recreation economy. As we face continuing concerns about river management, water quality, and increasing droughts driven by climate change, it's critical for us to take actions to preserve these rivers and the jobs they support. My bill protects 376 miles of wild and scenic rivers, including stretches of the iconic Smith River, sections of the popular Madison and Yellowstone Rivers, and headwaters streams in the Custer-Gallatin National Forest. These designations are based on years of work and input from stakeholders from all walks of life, including outfitters and guides, mining companies, local government, breweries, conservation groups and anglers from across the state.

My legislation would nearly double the number of miles of wild and scenic river in Montana, the majority of which was designated nearly half a century ago. These new designations will ensure these rivers and streams can be enjoyed by future generations, without impacting agricultural producers and other users along the rivers.

I thank you for your leadership on issues affecting our rivers, and I stand ready to work with you to advance this critical legislation.

Thank you,



Jon Tester