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Flathead Lakers:
*Working for clean water, a healthy
ecosystem, and lasting quality of
life in the Flathead Watershed.*

June 28, 2006

Paul J. Rana, Vice Chairman
Greater Woods Bay Sewer Committee
PO Box 8100
Bigfork, MT 59911

Re: Support letter for a Greater Woods Bay wastewater project

Dear Paul and the Greater Woods Bay Sewer Committee:

The Flathead Lakers support the Greater Woods Bay Sewer Committee and its efforts to develop a project to provide the greater Woods Bay area with effective and efficient wastewater treatment.

The Flathead Lakers is a nonprofit organization working for clean water, healthy ecosystems and lasting quality of life in the Flathead Watershed. Our organization was founded in 1958 and currently has over 1,300 members.


Flathead Lake has been declared an impaired water body by the State of Montana. Through the TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) process required by the Clean Water Act, the Montana Department of Environmental Quality determined that at least a 15% reduction in nutrient pollution from current levels is needed to safeguard clean water in Flathead Lake. Providing effective sewage treatment to Woods Bay, an area characterized by porous soils and relatively dense development, is a positive step toward protecting and improving water quality in Flathead Lake.

If a new sewage treatment facility that discharges into Flathead Lake becomes a preferred option, we encourage the Greater Woods Bay Sewer Committee and its consulting engineers to explore the best available technology for nitrogen removal, and disinfection with ozone or UV, rather than chlorine, to avoid discharge of chlorinated byproducts.

We also encourage the Committee and the Woods Bay community to carefully consider the impacts a new sewage treatment system may have on growth and development. The availability of a centralized sewage treatment facility will likely result in greater development densities. We believe a neighborhood plan and zoning should be developed and implemented in order to guide and manage growth in ways that will protect water quality from increased polluted runoff that could result from greater development density and more impervious surface area.

The quality of Flathead Lake contributes to the quality of life, the economy and the beauty of the Flathead Valley. We are pleased that the Committee is working so hard to protect these assets for the future. Please keep us informed about the project as you move ahead and let us know if we can be of assistance.

Sincerely,


Paul Williams *by R.H.S.*
President