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BCC 2016-003  
January 13, 2016

Ms. Anne C. Richard, Assistant Secretary  
Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C St. NW #5805  
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Ms. Richard:

The Missoula Board of County Commissioners would like to express our support of resettling approximately 100 refugees through the opening of the International Rescue Committee (IRC) refugee resettlement office in Missoula. We look forward to seeing approximately 100 refugees per year resettled in Missoula through their Reception and Placement Program.

Missoula is an ideal city for resettling refugees; in fact, we already have a proud history of doing so. Hundreds of Hmong refugees were resettled to Missoula in the late 1970's and '80s, joined by Ukrainians, Belarusians, and others. Our community enjoys good schools, incredible natural beauty, and a low unemployment rate, among other factors.

Missoula County takes our humanitarian obligations seriously. We would be proud to help in this endeavor and support the opening of a refugee resettlement office in Missoula. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Nicole Rowley, Chair

Jean Curtiss, Commissioner

Stacy Rye, Commissioner