

Dear Friends:

For those of us who have been working hard to obtain the 25,468 signatures required to get I-187 on the ballot because of our concern about the dire impacts of climate change, the COVID-19 pandemic has presented another big challenge--yet an opportunity for our I-187 clean electricity message to go viral.

**Please let us explain why we now need your immediate help:**

We are prohibited from person-to-person signature gathering (like that in the photo) by the public health precautions necessary to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Therefore, to you who have signed I-187 or would like to sign, we offer the following steps to safely spread the message to Montana voters about how to safely sign:

1. **print the attached signature petition, and the verification forms and fill them out.** (We are now replacing the previous affidavit with the verification form. Thus, references to "affidavit" at the bottom of the petition "Sponsor's Instructions ..." section should now be read as references to the verification form);
2. **mail the signed petition and verification to your county election office address** (shown in the attachments) via first class mail;
3. open the "stay in the loop" contact form toward the bottom of our [[MTCARES website](#)] fill it out, check the box **letting us know you have signed and mailed** I-187, then click "submit";
4. please be considerate of the county and postal workers by not signing and mailing if you or anyone in your family is sick or recently exposed to COVID-19; and
5. **forward this message** to all of your friends **or share** from the many share buttons available at our [[MTCARES website](#)]. Please ask registered Montana voters to sign I-187 and email all their friends (indicating there is additional information on I-187 and the climate crisis at the MTCARES website).

As of early March, ~66 active volunteer Montanans had gathered more than 10,600 signatures. If everyone will **forward this communication**, the I-187 renewable electricity campaign will go viral. We hope Montana voters who have not yet signed will provide the additional signatures necessary by June 19 to get I-187 on the November ballot. **Because time is short, please get started right away via email, phones, and social media urging folks to mail signatures in so the counties do not get jammed up with last minute submissions.**

To younger Montanans who are not yet registered to vote: If you live in Montana, the law allows you to gather signatures. So please print the forms and get registered voters, with whom you are sheltered in place, to sign and mail. Then forward this to your friends asking them to promote the better future you deserve.

At the end of the pandemic, we still must deal with the multitude of difficult climate crisis challenges drying out Montana farmland and forests, threatening jobs of ~ 35,000 Montana agricultural, tourism and skiing industry workers. Getting I-187 on the ballot and passed in the November election will help secure a better future for all Montanans and the world.

Lester R. Brown once noted: "Saving civilization is not a spectator sport." Thank you in advance for being more than a spectator. Stay safe and healthy.

Your I-187 team.

Please submit any questions on the [[contact form](#)] at our website or call 406-696-2842.

PS. Additional information about our requests for a declaratory ruling and emergency order to facilitate safe signature gathering is at [[Additional info on facilitating your right to petition government](#)]

Attachments: I-187 petition, verification form, county election office addresses

**PETITION TO PLACE INITIATIVE NO. I-187 ON THE ELECTION BALLOT**

Subject to applicable laws and deadlines, if 5% of the voters in each of 34 legislative representative districts sign this petition and the total number of voters signing this petition is 25,468, this initiative will appear on the next general election ballot. If a majority of voters vote for this initiative at that election, it will become law.

We, the undersigned Montana voters, propose that the Secretary of State place the following initiative on the November 03, 2020, general election ballot:

**Statement of Purpose and Implication:**

I-187 generally revises energy and taxation laws, requiring investor-owned electric utilities to increase procurement of renewable sources like wind and solar, gradually equaling an 80% renewable energy requirement by 2035. Pre-2005 hydroelectric generation may only be counted if total renewable generation is 80%. Mandates may not result in rate increases beyond 2% annually. Cooperative utility members must vote on whether to voluntarily adopt initiative standards. To address reduction in coal-related mining, use, transportation and employment, I-187 funds worker retraining, pension safety nets, apprenticeships, and assistance for coal-impacted communities by levying taxes on each kilowatt-hour of electricity produced to offset coal severance tax, gross proceeds tax, and royalty revenue reductions. I-187 allows governments, churches, and nonprofits to participate in 250-kilowatt net metering systems, permits aggregate net metering, and the creation of neighborhood renewable energy facilities.

**Fiscal Statement:**

I-187 establishes new taxes on each kilowatt-hour of electricity produced in Montana, increasing 2021-2025 net general fund revenues a total of \$7.87 million to supplant declining coal-related revenues, and raising \$121 million by 2025 to retrain up to 7,200 workers.

- YES on Initiative I-187
- NO on Initiative I-187

Voters are urged to read the complete text of the initiative, which appears with this sheet. A signature on this petition is only to put the initiative on the ballot and does not necessarily mean the signer agrees with the initiative.

**WARNING**

A person who purposefully signs a name other than the person's own to this petition, who signs more than once for the same issue at one election, or who signs when not a legally registered Montana voter is subject to a \$500 fine, 6 months in jail, or both. Each person is required to sign the person's name and list the person's address or telephone number in substantially the same manner as on the person's voter registration form or the signature will not be counted.

Signature	Date Signed	Residence Address or Post-Office Address or Home Telephone Number	Printed Last Name and First and Middle Initials	For Co Election Office Use Only	
				Leg. Rep. Dist #	Rsvd
1.					
2.					
3.					
4.					
5.					
6.					
7.					
8.					
9.					
10.					

**Sponsor's Instructions to Signature Gatherers:** (1) You must be a Montana resident. (2) You cannot be paid per signature. (3) Collect signatures **from voters, only one county per sheet**. (4) If possible, use blue ink. (5) Show copies of I-187 text to those wishing to review it. (6) **Do not leave a petition unattended; You must personally witness each signature on all pages you submit.** (7) Each group of (not more than 25) signature sheets fastened together must be accompanied by **your notarized affidavit**. (8) **Do not** add signatures after your affidavit is notarized. (9) Bi-weekly, **beginning 10/17/19, and before 5 PM, 6/19/20, deliver the original of each petition signature page** (even if not completely full) **plus your affidavit, to the election administrator of the county where the signers live.** See: <http://sos.mt.gov/portals/142/Elections/forms/electionadministrators.pdf> for election-office addresses. (10) Scan and email a copy of all signature pages/affidavits to [admin@mtcares.org](mailto:admin@mtcares.org). (11) A copy of I-187 and other explanatory and signature gathering material is available in the "about tab" at [www.mtcares.org](http://www.mtcares.org).

**Verification of Petition Signature Gatherer**

Pursuant to § 1-6-105, MCA, a verification to replace a notarized affidavit must be attached to each sheet or section submitted to the election administrator. Separate sheets of a petition may be fastened to this verification in sections of not more than 25 sheets.

**VERIFICATION TO BE FILED WITH ELECTION ADMINISTRATOR:**

I, \_\_\_\_\_,  
(printed name of person who is the signature gatherer or who is the person signing [if only one person signs the initiative signature sheet])

swear or affirm under penalty of perjury that the following statements are true that I gathered the signatures on the petition to which this affidavit is attached on the stated dates, by (check all that apply):

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1) signing the attached initiative petition;
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2) gathering signatures while safely observing a person signing (e.g. via skype, watching occupants in my house, etc.);
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3) receiving by mail or pre-arranged social distancing drop-pick up, attached petition(s) containing original signature(s);
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4) receiving authenticated electronic signature(s) on attached petition(s); or
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5) doing the thing named on the following line to obtain authenticated signature(s) on attached petition(s)\_\_\_\_\_;

that I believe the signatures on the petitions to which this form is attached, are genuine, are the signatures of the persons whose names they purport to be, and are the signatures of Montana electors who are registered at the address indicated, or have the telephone number following the person's signature, and (in the case of an electronic signature) have the last four digits of the elector's social security number, and that the signers knew the contents of the petition before signing the petition.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date on which the first signature attached was gathered)

**(Do not sign on the line below before gathering the signatures on the petition(s) that you attach to this verification.)**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of petition signature gatherer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address of petition signature gatherer

\_\_\_\_\_  
City, state and zip code of signature gatherer

Where to file (mail) your Petition(s) and Verification Form: County Election Administrator's Office. A list of County election offices addresses may be found at:

<https://sosmt.gov/Portals/142/Elections/Forms/electionadministrators.pdf>

<b>County</b>	<b>First_Name</b>	<b>Last_Name</b>	<b>Mailing Address</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>Zip</b>	<b>Phone</b>
Beaverhead	Stacey	Reynolds	2 S Pacific St, No 3	Dillon	59725	406-683-3720
Big Horn	Dulcie	Bear Don't Walk	PO Box 908	Hardin	59034	406-665-9796
Blaine	Tammy	Williams	PO Box 278	Chinook	59523	406-357-3240
Broadwater	Doug	Ellis	515 Broadway St	Townsend	59644	406-266-3443
Carbon	Macque	Bohleen	PO Box 887	Red Lodge	59068	406-446-1220
Carter	Pamela	Castleberry	Box 315	Ekalaka	59324	406-775-8749
Cascade	Rina	Moore	Box 2305	Great Falls	59403	406-454-6803
Chouteau	Lana	Claassen	Box 459	Fort Benton	59442	406-622-5151
Custer	Linda	Corbett	1010 Main	Miles City	59301	406-874-3343
Daniels	Kristy	Jones	Box 247	Scobey	59263	406-487-5561
Dawson	Shirley	Kreiman	207 West Bell	Glendive	59330	406-377-3058
Deer Lodge	Amanda	Wilson	800 Main	Anaconda	59711	406-563-4061
Fallon	Brenda	Wood	Box 846	Baker	59313	406-778-7106
Fallon	Kathy	Newell	Box 846	Baker	59313	406-778-7106
Fergus	Rana	Wichman	712 W Main	Lewistown	59457	406-535-5242
Flathead	Debbie	Pierson	40 11th St W, Ste 230	Kalispell	59901	406-758-5535
Gallatin	Eric	Semerad	311 W Main, Rm 210	Bozeman	59715	406-582-3060
Gallatin	Casey	Hayes	311 W Main, Rm 210	Bozeman	59715	406-582-3060
Garfield	Patty	Sewell	PO Box 7	Jordan	59337	406-557-2760
Glacier	Mandi	Bird Kennerly	512 E Main	Cut Bank	59427	406-873-3609
Golden Valley	Brent	Nice	PO Box 10	Ryegate	59074	406-568-2231
Granite	Sarah	Graham	Box 925	Philipsburg	59858	406-859-3771
Hill	Susan	Armstrong	315 4th St	Havre	59501	406-265-5481 x221
Jefferson	Bonnie	Ramey	Box H	Boulder	59632	406-225-4020
Judith Basin	Amanda	Kelly	Box 427	Stanford	59479	406-566-2277 x109
Lake Lewis & Clark	Katie	Harding	106 4th Ave E	Polson	59860	406-883-7268
Lewis & Clark	Paulette	DeHart	316 N Park Ave, Rm 168	Helena	59623	406-447-8339
Clark	Audrey	McCue	316 N Park Ave, Rm 168	Helena	59623	406-447-8339
Liberty	Davin	Buffington	Box 459	Chester	59522	406-759-5365
Lincoln	Leigh	Riggleman	512 California	Libby	59923	406-283-2302
Madison	Kathleen	Mumme	Box 366	Virginia City	59755	406-843-4270
McCone	Maridel	Kassner	Box 199	Circle	59215	406-485-3505
Meagher	Dayna	Ogle	Box 309	White Sulphur Springs	59645	406-547-3612 x2
Mineral	Kelann	McLees	Box 550	Superior	59872	406-822-3520
Missoula	Bradley	Seaman	140 N Russell St	Missoula	59801	406-258-4751
Musselshell	Cheryl	Tomassi	506 Main	Roundup	59072	406-323-1104
Park	Maritza	Reddington	414 E Callender St	Livingston	59047	406-222-4110
Petroleum	Janel	Tucek	Box 226	Winnett	59087	406-429-5311
Phillips	Lynnel	LaBrie	Box 360	Malta	59538	406-654-2423
Pondera Powder River	Kody	Farkell	20 4th Ave SW	Conrad	59425	406-271-4000
River	Cynde Jo	Gatlin	Box 200	Broadus	59317	406-436-2361
Powell	Jody	Walker	409 Missouri	Deer Lodge	59722	406-846-9786
Prairie	Shari L.	Robertson	Box 125	Terry	59349	406-635-5575
Ravalli	Regina	Plettenberg	215 S 4th St, Ste C	Hamilton	59840	406-375-6550
Richland	Stephanie	Verhasselt	201 W Main	Sidney	59270	406-433-1708
Roosevelt	Cheryl	Hansen	400 2nd Ave S	Wolf Point	59201	406-653-6250

Rosebud	Joan	Duffield	Box 47	Forsyth	59327	406-346-7318
Sanders	Nichol	Scribner	Box 519	Thompson Falls	59873	406-827-6922
Sheridan	Lindsey	Brensdal	100 W Laurel Ave	Plentywood	59254	406-765-3403
Silver Bow	Sally	Hollis	155 W Granite Rm, 208	Butte	59701	406-497-6342
Stillwater	Heidi	Stadel	Box 149	Columbus	59019	406-322-8000
Sweet Grass	Vera	Pederson	Box 888	Big Timber	59011	406-932-5152
Teton	Paula	Jaconetty	Box 610	Choteau	59422	406-466-2693
Toole	Treva	Nelson	226 1st St S	Shelby	59474	406-424-8300
Treasure	Marlee	Sears	Box 392	Hysham	59038	406-342-5547
Valley	Taryn	Aberg	501 Court Sq, Box 2	Glasgow	59230	406-228-6226
Wheatland	Mary	Miller	Box 1903	Harlowton	59036	406-632-4891
Wibaux	Jodee	Chaffee	PO Box 199	Wibaux	59353	406-796-2481
Yellowstone	Bret	Rutherford	Box 35002	Billings	59107	406-256-2740