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## United States Senate

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JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

January 24, 2011

Co-Chair Jennifer Porter  
Co-Chair Dan Dinning  
Co-Chair David Anderson  
Kootenai Valley Resource Initiative  
c/o Kootenai Tribe of Idaho  
P.O. Box 1269  
Bonners Ferry, ID 83805

Dear KVRI Co-Chairs and Members,

I write to congratulate you and all the members of the Kootenai Valley Resource Initiative (KVRI) on the occasion of your 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. This is truly a milestone of which you can all be proud.

Too often around the West, management of our public lands and the resources therein has devolved into a stalemate of litigation. However, KVRI has succeeded in bringing together the federal management agencies, user groups, conservation groups and the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho to solve many of the challenges facing the people of Boundary County. Furthermore, you have done it in a way that has built trust between members and an understanding that problem-solving does not have to be a zero-sum game.

In just ten short years, KVRI has made a significant and positive impact on life in Boundary County for the people and the environment, without pitting one against the other. For that and more, you have my utmost respect and my best wishes for a bright and successful future. Again, congratulations.

Very Truly Yours,



James E. Risch  
United States Senator

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