

Dear Chamber Member,

Today I am contacting you as the chair of the Central Montana Defense Alliance, also known as the CMDA. Hopefully you have heard about us through the media coverage, Chamber news letters, and positive talk on the streets. We are the Chamber body developed to facilitate community and government support to sustain and enhance existing military missions and pursue future missions.

We have been working closely with our local military leaders to help them succeed with their respective missions. Previous Malmstrom AFB commanders along with the current commander, Colonel Anthony Cotton, have expressed concern regarding the appearance of 2nd Avenue North as it leads to the main gate at the base. The CMDA Executive Committee met and discussed this concern and took a tour of the area at issue. I can tell you personally, that when you drive slowly on 2nd Avenue North after 52nd Street, you will have an eye opening experience regarding the appearance of this area.

Every base commander, as well as all citizens of the base, takes great pride in their base and its appearance. After all, it is their home while they are stationed here. Malmstrom AFB and Great Falls have always taken great pride in the amazing relationship we have developed over the years. That weighed heavily on how we would approach a solution for this issue that was acceptable for Malmstrom AFB leadership and those impacted along 2nd Avenue North.

After meeting with Commissioner Joe Briggs, who also serves on the CMDA as the Cascade County representative and one of the five major stakeholders. Joe went to work and found funds that would pay for the majority of the work to improve the appearance of 2nd Avenue North. We applaud his efforts and innovative ideas on how to approach and resolve this identified issue. However, his strategy would also require approximately 12% matching funds which would be approximately forty thousand dollars.

Those matching funds are why I am writing to you and other Great Falls Chamber Members. We need to raise these funds to help bring this project to reality. It is our hope that you will recognize all that Malmstrom AFB brings to our area, and not just from an economic aspect. We already know the many sacrifices the men and women in uniform make to protect America and our way of life. We ask you to consider that Malmstrom AFB is their home and is also the entry many dignitaries utilize on their visits to Malmstrom AFB. They say you don't get a second chance to make a first impression. We want to make a first impression that shows how much we really do appreciate Malmstrom AFB and the men and women were serving there.

We hope that you will find this asking worthy of your help. Please enclose your contribution and send it to the Great Falls Chamber of Commerce today. We will also accept credit cards, please call Roxy at the Chamber if you choose to pay in this form.

Thank you in advance for your consideration!

Sincerely,

David Weissman
Chair

David Bertelsen
Vice Chair

Percy "Steve" Malicott
Treasurer

Joe Briggs
Member

Brett Doney
Member

Greg Doyon
Member

John Faulkner
Member

Alan Hobbs
Member

Owen Robinson
Member

Ken Van Sickle
Member