

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF MONTANA

STEVE BULLOCK
GOVERNOR

Angela McLean
LT. GOVERNOR

February 11, 2014

The Honorable James B. Comey, Jr.
Director, FBI
935 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, 7th Floor
Washington, DC 20535

Director Comey:

I write to you today urging you to keep the Bakken FBI office in its current location in Sidney, Montana. When the decision was made to place an office in the Bakken, Richland County was the only jurisdiction to offer office space and assistance. Now that the office is in place and relationships have been established, it would be counterproductive to move the location of the office and agents.

Both Montana and North Dakota have experienced a significant increase in violent crime as development in the Bakken Oil Shale has occurred. In rural areas such as Eastern Montana and Western North Dakota, law enforcement challenges are magnified by vast distances small agencies are required to cover. Richland County's location is advantageous, as Sidney sits equidistant from both Williston and Watford City, North Dakota, in the center of Bakken activity.

On behalf of the State of Montana, as well as the officials in Richland County, I want to sincerely thank you for the assistance and support your agency has provided as we face the challenges associated with rapid growth and development in Eastern Montana. These partnerships are critical to the safety and security of our communities and I look forward to continuing that relationship.

Sincerely,



STEVE BULLOCK
Governor