



June 8, 2023

Members of the Montana Board of Regents  
c/o Commissioner Clayton T. Christian  
Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education  
2500 Broadway Street  
P.O. Box 203201  
Helena, MT 59620-3201

Dear Members of the Board of Regents,

I write to officially put forward the distinguished University of Montana alumnus, Mae Nan Ellingson, for your consideration as an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters. This nomination has been through the campus process, including action by the appropriate department/college level, as well as action by the Faculty Senate in executive session. Included with this letter, you will find a complete nomination packet for the candidate.

A two-time graduate of the University of Montana, Mae Nan Ellingson was one of 19 women to serve among the 100 delegates at the 1972 Montana Constitutional Convention. At the time, Ms. Ellingson was just 24 years old, the youngest of all the delegates. She had a tremendous impact as a delegate, leading her colleagues to name her one of the Convention's "Ten Outstanding Constitutional Convention Delegates. Among other notable accomplishments, she led proposals for both the state's bill of rights and "clean and healthful" environmental constitutional provision, and co-authored the Constitution's preamble.

After supporting her siblings following her mother's death, Ms. Ellingson enrolled in UM's School of Law in 1973 as one of nine women in the class of 75 students. Graduating with honors, Mae Nan Ellingson was an active law student – participating in the Moot Court, serving as a member of the Law Review and playing a key role in founding the Women's Law Caucus. Upon graduation, she took a position with the Missoula City Attorney's Office before starting a lengthy career with the Dorsey & Whitney law firm. Serving as bond counsel, Ms. Ellingson worked on numerous public projects and helped form the Montana Municipal Insurance Authority and the Intercap Program.

Described by a nominator as "a person of great character, integrity and intelligence," Mae Nan Ellingson is also known for the time she dedicates to Montana organizations, including board service for the Missoula Art Museum and Five Valleys Land Trust and leading the capital campaign for the new Missoula Public Library building. An active alumnus, she has served as a member of the UM Law School's Board of Visitors and participated in the UM symposium commemorating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1972 Constitution.

For her impact on our institution and the state of Montana, Mae Nan Ellingson has my full support as an exceptional candidate for an honorary doctorate at the University of Montana. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Seth Bodnar".

Seth Bodnar  
President

Office of the President