

From: [Liesbeth Aiking](#)
To: [Grp. City Council and City Web Site](#)
Subject: About the Fort
Date: Sunday, September 24, 2023 6:09:29 AM

*E. G. Aiking-Van Wageningen (Oud Lid Tweede Kamer der Staten-Generaal)
President Kennedylaan 229, 6883 AH Velp, Nederland*

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Velp, September 18, 2023

Missoula City Council
City of Missoula, Montana
435 Ryman St., Missoula, Mt. 59802, USA

Dear Councilors,

Greetings from the Netherlands! My residence lies in the province of Gelderland (with fewer mountains!), but it has been my pleasure for many years now to know the beautiful city of Missoula through family connections.

I am a retired member of the Netherlands Parliament, and a former officer of the trust organization “Geldersch Landschap en Kasteelen”, which oversees a number of castles and historic estates around the province. It is with concern that I read of the plan to place residences and businesses upon the site of the historic Fort Missoula Post Hospital.

I grew up in the Netherlands during the German Occupation, and therefore strongly believe that sites with a marked connection to the Second World War should be preserved for the education of future

generations.

The hospital site is one such place, and as a place of treatment for wartime Italian and Japanese internees is a place of shared heritage for all of us who experienced the war, as well as for our descendants.

The Netherlands has many historically significant places, while of course there is much demand for land in a small country. Nonetheless, the protection of historic sites of conscience enjoys broad support.

I would be sad if any portion of Fort Missoula were lost for the generations to come, especially considering how much the current Missoula citizens seem to treasure their well-preserved Historic Fort.

I hope that the Missoula City Council will disapprove this current plan and direct a more appropriate use of the Fort Missoula Post Hospital property.

Thank you for your attention, and I hope you may someday have the pleasure of visiting some of Gelderland's preserved treasures.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Gebharda Aiking-van Wageningen

P.S. A paper copy of my letter is on the way as well, but it might arrive later than Sept.28 - hence this email