

DRAFT LETTER OF SUPPORT REQUESTED BY IMAGINE KOOTENAY PARTNERSHIP

Columbia Basin Trust
#300, 445 13 Avenue
Castlegar, BC V1N 1G1

Re: Imagine Kootenay Partnership

On behalf of the Regional District of East Kootenay and as one of ten partner communities of Imagine Kootenay, I would like to express my gratitude for the support that the Columbia Basin Trust has given this program over the years. We see Imagine Kootenay as a valuable asset to the Kootenay Region for the purpose of raising the profile of the region, connecting investors to opportunities, stimulating regional investment and attracting a diverse workforce to the region.

We believe that we demonstrate collaboration from a regional approach unlike any other project that currently exists. Since 2006, 43 businesses have sold directly as part of the program, valued at over \$15.8M. With the addition of the workforce section in 2016, over 37,500 people viewed the job board, which has now become the most viewed page on our website. Imagine Kootenay has 283 business listings, over 2,000 registered investors and has provided succession planning services to over 35 communities and regional districts.

The entire Imagine Kootenay steering committee and partners see considerable value in this program and we are determined for this tool to continue and believe the Trust is the obvious solution.

Thank you for your continued support of Imagine Kootenay.