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MONTANA LEADERS PUSH FOR MORE MOMS TO RUN FOR PUBLIC OFFICE

****[Audio from telepresser available here](#)****

(May 24, 2018)—At a time when more women are not only running for office, but **winning** and **making history**, local elected officials and national leaders **joined a press call** yesterday to discuss the **Moms Clean Air Force Mama Summit** happening this Memorial Day weekend near Livingston, MT. Women leaders will offer tools and tips for moms seeking office for the first time, and speakers will share best practices on advocating for climate action, conservation, clean air, and kids' health.

Montana State Representative Laurie Bishop (District-60), who represents Livingston, discussed the importance of supporting women who are making change in their communities.

"I really see women stepping into their power and contributing to the changes that we care about... And somehow when we get to that political door, we're stepping into spaces and systems that are very male dominated and it can sometimes leave us doubting our own contributions and I have really become passionate about contributing to holding that space for us to discover our voice, to lift our voices up for one another," said Rep. Bishop.

Alderwoman Heidi West (Ward 1 City Councilmember) in Missoula shared her experience fighting to cleanup a superfund site in her community.

"I came to run for public office because I happened to have a state superfund site at the end of my street, and a few years ago the Montana State Department of Environmental Quality came out with a draft record decision that was just wasn't acceptable for a residential neighborhood. So, I rallied together friends and neighbors and non-profits to repeal that decision. As a result of that we got a higher clean-up level," explained Alderwoman West.

The three-day summit this weekend will be hosted by Moms Clean Air Force, Montana Mountain Mamas, and Park County Environmental Council, as part of Moms Clean Air Force's "**Moms & Mayors**" nationwide program.

Leaders from Moms Clean Air Force shared their vision for engaging more moms and women to make change at the local level.

"When you have moms in office they [have power to] do the right thing and that's one of the reasons why we are huge advocates of seeing women and seeing mothers in office," said **Heather McTeer Toney, Senior Advisor for Local Government for Moms Clean Air Force and Former Mayor of Greenville Mississippi**.

“We know that moms look at all elements that will impact not only the community but also their children and they are willing to sit down at the table to make sure that our children are raised in safe and healthy spaces.”

“We know mothers are the most fierce advocates for children’s health. To that end, we are coming together to have one another backs,” said **Michelle Uberuaga, Montana Field Manager for Moms Clean Air Force.** “Moms know how to roll up our sleeves and get stuff done. I can tell you there is no shortage of work at the local level and it is our responsibility to get engaged and show up because our children’s futures are in our hands.”

This Montana Mama Summit is the culmination of a [10-city tour of Mama Summits](#) that has brought together moms, advocates, and local leaders to improve children’s health and build resilient communities.

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Moms Clean Air Force is a community of over one million moms—and dads—working together to combat air pollution, including the urgent crisis of our changing climate. For more information, go to <http://www.momscleanairforce.org/> or follow us on Twitter [@CleanAirMoms](#), Instagram [@cleanairmoms](#), or [Facebook](#).