



Office of International Affairs and Diplomacy

August 06, 2013

Rebecca Wallace
Karinjo DeVore
Co-Executive Directors
VERTEX

Dear colleagues,

On behalf of my colleagues at Utah Valley University and the Utah-Russia Institute, members of the Mountain Partnership (MP), I would like to congratulate you on the official establishment of the North America Hub for the MP, under the name *VERTEX*, which also will include Central America and the Caribbean. I am sure that we will continue our tradition of working together on advocacy of the sustainable mountain development (SMD) agenda both in the North America and globally, as we have done in the past. Please consider a linkages between the *VERTEX* website and two our web-sites: www.womenofthemountains.org, and www.utahimf.org;

Responding to your questions about preparations for the 4th Global Meeting of the Mountain Partnership in Erzurum, Turkey, we plan to send a delegation and are seeking funds, as well as working on logistics. We responded to the draft Governance and Strategy document for the period 2014-2017. We plan to present in Turkey an exhibition of posters about partnership between the Rocky Mountain region and Central Asian mountain nations based on SMD-advocacy as a side event and we will be glad to discuss with Karinjo, who plans to be in Turkey, how to do that jointly.

Also, UVU and the Utah-Russia-Institute support *VERTEX* as a candidate as the Civil Society Member of the Steering Committee for North & Central American and the Caribbean. As the regional hub, it is well positioned to represent our geographic area.

We look forward to working with you on building a network of MP members in North and Central America and the Caribbean and to advance the sustainable mountain development agenda both regionally and globally. (FYI, we have a very close, personal relationship with the Dominican Republic Mission at the United Nations, especially with the Ambassador. We will host the DR Minister of Mines later this year when he comes to Utah.)

With warm regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'R. Butler' with a horizontal line underneath.

R.E. "Rusty" Butler, Ph.D.
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