Dear fellow conservation voter,

As we on the board of Conservation Voters for Idaho (CVI) were going through the lengthy process of deciding our endorsements in municipal races across Idaho in November’s elections, I did something I’ve done countless times over the years whenever I need to clear the static from my mind and think through a big decision.

I went for a long trail run in the Boise Foothills. And as usual, it helped—in part by reminding me of what this election is all about.

Boise voters will go to the polls on Nov. 5 to choose their next mayor. Two candidates, the incumbent Mayor Dave Bieter and City Council President Lauren McLean, have both been allies of our work and endorsed by us in past elections. Both sought our endorsement again.

CVI’s Board of Directors is proud of the rigorous, multi-step process we go through in selecting the candidates we endorse.

After the most thorough and intense process we’ve ever gone through, our board is proud to endorse Lauren McLean to be the next mayor of Boise.

Dave Bieter was first elected mayor 16 years ago, when Boise was facing challenges that included the exit of the previous, disgraced mayor, and beginning a period of change and growth. CVI has worked with Mayor Bieter over the years and we appreciate his accomplishments.

Today, many of us who live in and love this community share a sense that Boise has entered another period of even more challenging change and growth.

Our amazing quality of life makes Boise a great place to live, work and raise a family. But lately, unprecedented growth places enormous pressure on our open space, public lands, infrastructure, and clean air and water. We need new solutions that lead to a future where all residents can enjoy the quality of life that makes our city so special.

While Dave Bieter was a good leader for his time, we feel that Boise now needs new, bolder leadership. Our city needs a person who’s ready and committed to a strongly pro-conservation strategy that protects what we love about Boise and guides us toward the future we want to see—so that our children can live and thrive in the place recently ranked as the 13th-fastest-warming city in America.

At CVI, we know that Lauren McLean does not view conservation as just another special interest—she sees conservation as the foundation upon which we must build Boise’s prosperous and livable future. We are confident that she will push the envelope on clean energy, public transportation and open space, and the other hard issues Boise faces.
In her endorsement interview with our board, Lauren said, “If we want to accomplish what Boise needs to in order to thrive in the long term, we need to change. We can take the easy route, but that’s not reflective of this city. We should expect more from ourselves and our leaders because the city deserves much more.”

We couldn’t agree more and we believe the proposals put forth by Lauren demonstrate the type of change Boise needs, such as:

- Beat the City of Boise’s goal of achieving 100% clean energy by 2035.
- Set a goal of a carbon-neutral municipal government by 2035.
- Double the goal for reducing single-person car trips by 20% by 2029.
- Bring a fresh approach to the transportation issue in Boise.
- Seek new solutions to engage with and listen to all communities.

At CVI, our mission is unambiguous: we support and help elect the most committed conservation champions who seek elected office across Idaho. We hold elected officials accountable for their decisions and actions—and we believe the best way to do that is at the ballot box.

In that, I’m proud to say our staff and thousands of volunteers have been enormously successful—a record recognized nationally as a model in a red state.

Sometimes that puts us in a position of making a difficult choice. From our perspective, that kind of choice is one we have helped create in Boise—and it’s the best kind of problem we could face.

This election offers a unique opportunity to raise the bar for conservation in Boise City Hall. Our board decided that we must engage fully in Boise’s election for mayor and City Council, because to do anything less would be to retreat from our mission—from the primary reason that we exist as an organization and the reason that you support our work.

We are also proud to endorse the following candidates for Boise City Council:

- **City Council Seat 1: Patrick Bageant**
- **City Council Seat 3: Meredith Stead**
- **City Council Seat 5: Elaine Clegg**

We encourage you to learn more about how we came to our decisions, our rigorous endorsement process and criteria for selection, and view our complete list of endorsed candidates across Idaho by visiting cvidaho.org/2019election.

Whenever I hit the trails in Boise’s beautiful Foothills, I get a rush of fond memories, many of them of times spent out here with my family, going back to when our kids, now teenagers, were very young. I’d be lying to say I’m not deeply concerned about their future.
We live in disturbing times. At a global and national level, it seems we are headed in a dangerously wrong direction when it comes to the greatest challenge to ever face humanity: climate change.

But in Boise, we still have an opportunity to shape a future that adapts smartly to the inevitable growth and change happening right now.

Especially when I think of my kids, I’m comfortable with any decision to back the strongest conservation champion in any race.

Today, good enough is no longer good enough.

Our staff and board at CVI are fully prepared and committed to the hard work necessary to ensure a bright future for Boise and our entire state. We urge you to join us in supporting Lauren McLean for Boise Mayor on Nov. 5, and working with us toward that future.

And as always, thank you for your support for Conservation Voters for Idaho, an organization whose board I am deeply proud of serving on. Your support enables us to continue this critical work every day, and we appreciate you for that.

For Idaho,

Mike Lanza
Board Chair
Conservation Voters for Idaho