Dear Friend,

Three years ago, American Prairie Reserve (APR) began the most promising and ambitious era since its inception with the launch of its multifaceted Land of Legacy Campaign. Conceived as an extension of the organization’s successes during its first two decades, the Campaign’s goals are to elevate national awareness of its mission and inspire philanthropic support funding the construction of a National Discovery Center, a Hut-to-Hut Trail System on the Reserve, a national prize awarded annually to a distinguished American and continued support for land acquisition and wildlife restoration.

As of the date of this message, we have announced commitments of $48 million from families, individuals and organizations in and beyond the United States funding Land of Legacy’s highest priorities. Today, it is my pleasure to share with you a strategically important and very generous $2 million gift from Kären and Jay Abbe endowing the National Discovery Center’s full-time Center Director position.

The Abbes’ commitment is enabling APR to aggressively pursue qualified candidates for the professional position that will shape the National Discovery Center’s near- and long-term programmatic content. The Director will collaborate with colleges and universities, conservation and other scientific organizations, schools and others to create annual and periodic functions and events in the National Discovery Center especially relevant to APR’s broader mission, programming enhancing the public’s experiences on the Reserve. The Director will play a vital role in shaping the Center as a destination for Reserve visitors, global partners, and members of surrounding communities.
Jay Abbe is a long-time member of American Prairie Reserve’s Board of Directors. He and Kären have been generous in both their service and with the philanthropic support. The timing of the Abbes’ commitment is particularly important because it will enable the National Discovery Center’s Director to participate in the Center’s final design and accelerate research leading to its initial programming.

In making their historic commitment Jay explained, “Kären and I are pleased to continue our support of American Prairie Reserve by funding and endowing this key position in the National Discovery Center. We believe the Center will advance all aspects of APR’s mission while also supporting the community of Lewistown, Montana.”

I have had the privilege of spending many days on the Reserve with Jay and Kären over the last decade, and I know first-hand their deep commitment to APR’s mission. It is in this context that I join with American Prairie Reserve’s Board of Directors and staff in thanking Jay and Kären for their strategic investment in APR’s future.

Sincerely,

Alison Fox
CEO, American Prairie Reserve