



The University of
Montana

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June 1, 2011

Bill Bryan
The Rural Landscape Institute
7 East Beall St.
Bozeman, MT 59715

Dear Bill,

It was good to see you in Helena toward the end of the legislative session and catch up on One Montana. I was pleased lawmakers passed the resolution supporting One Montana.

The University of Montana will continue to support your efforts with One Montana to further bridge the state's rural-urban divide. We really do share common goals of addressing issues in the areas of the environment, energy, education, health care, jobs and technology. I want to continue to build a healthy and sustainable future for the state and national economies. We also look forward to continued collaboration with One Montana with our colleagues at Montana State University.

The following faculty and deans will comprise the team from The University of Montana for the coordinating committee:

Chris Comer, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences
Jim Burchfield, Dean, College of Forestry and Conservation
Bobbie Evans, Dean, Phyllis J. Washington College of Education and Human Sciences
Roger Mclean, Dean, School of Extended and Lifelong Learning

I understand that Montana State University will also designate up to three deans or faculty members to be part of the coordinating committee.

The University of Montana's contribution to One Montana will be in the form of a pilot project in Mineral County that will build on the Mineral County Challenge. It will look at the effects of ecotourism development from the bicycle trail restoration and the elements of the initiative to create economic development opportunities in Mineral County. Specifically, we have invested a little more than \$20,000 from the College of Forestry and Conservation to examine the perspectives of the stakeholders in the county regarding their views of the success of the Mineral County Challenge. We will investigate both the material dimensions of success (products and jobs) and the success of the Mineral County Challenge as a process for community development.

The results will provide recommendations for other rural counties that engage in resource-based development efforts.

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I also agree to contribute another \$20,000 to the project from The University of Montana with the idea that MSU will provide similar funds.

It is my understanding that One Montana's initial efforts will include:

- Creating and maintaining a One Montana website of rural resources, demographics, and economic information to assist rural and urban communities.
- Creating and implementing a marketing and public relations campaign to promote the benefits of the One Montana website and its resources statewide.
- Creating and delivering an outreach program to train individuals, including extension agents and community leaders on how to use the One Montana website and its resources to support rural/urban projects in their areas.
- Providing ongoing university infrastructure and program support of interns, curriculum development, colloquia, and symposia for students and professionals committed to understanding and building connections between urban and rural Montana.

Thanks again for all your good work on this. I look forward to working together on One Montana.

Sincerely,



Royce C. Engstrom
President

RCE/kc
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- c: J. Burchfield, Dean, College of Forestry and Conservation
C. Comer, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences
W. Cruzado, President, Montana State University
B. Evans, Dean, Phyllis J. Washington College of Education and Human Sciences
R. Maclean, Dean, School of Extended and Lifelong Learning