



March 20, 2013

Representative Duane Ankney,  
Chair House Appropriations Committee  
Montana State Capitol, 1301 E. 6th Ave.  
Helena, MT 59601

## RE: Please support HB 471

Dear Representative Ankney and House Appropriations Committee Members,

Part of my work as director of Farm to Cafeteria Network, a project of the National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT), is to work with Montana School Food Service Authorities (FSAs) to explore ways they can incorporate more local food items on their schools' menus. The desire to do so is great, the nutrition and environmental impacts even greater, but **the economic benefit of bringing local food into schools is by far the greatest force thrusting the Farm to School movement forward.**

In Butte where I live, the school district is planning to purchase its 2013-2014 ground beef from Ranchland Packing Inc., a federally-inspected meat processor here in town. In the past, the school has obtained beef from the USDA commodity entitlement program. When I told someone I work with at NCAT about the intended switch, she replied, "My uncle works at Ranchland!" **Her uncle's job is more secure because of Butte's Farm to School program. His earnings and those of other employees at Ranchland will stay in our Butte community.**

Butte would also like to purchase its bread products from Wheat Montana, but so far has been unable to afford even a pilot program with some of the local breads. **With the seed grants provided through HB-471, Butte and other school districts would have the funding needed to establish business relationships and procedures around new local food items and make those changes systematic.**

To secure agricultural and food-related jobs like those at Ranchland, to stimulate our state's economy, please support HB-471.

Thank you for your time,  
Nancy Moore

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