MONTANA BIOFUEL EXCHANGE LLC

SENATE FINANCE & CLAIMS
Exhibit No. 3
Date 4-11-13
Bill No. HB 420

February 12, 2013

TO: Montana House Agriculture Committee
RE: HB 420 In Support of Montana Food and Agricultural Development Centers

Good day,

My name is Taylor Lyon I write to you today to profess my gratitude for the services provided by the Montana Food and Agricultural Development Centers. Utilizing the assistance provided by the development center housed at Bear Paw Development Corporation in Havre, and more specifically Tiffany Melby, I successfully launched a small business in the spring of 2012, which focused on providing farmers and ranchers of the Hi-Line region with sustainably sourced and produced biodiesel. In less than one year, the Montana Biofuel Exchange LLC has recovered its initial investment and has plans for expansion in 2013.

Being a young entrepreneur with absolutely no formal training in business, The Food and Ag Development Center helped me translate the ideas in my head to plans on paper, and ultimately to actions on the ground. Not only did they provide me a template for business plans, they helped me weave through the pros and cons of various structures of business, and even wrote a grant to the Montana Department of Agriculture to help fund the start- up costs. The process of writing this grant forced me to "iron out" my thoughts and weed out poorer portions of my grand plan.

I may have been able to start my business without the assistance of the Food and Ag Development Center, but I can assure you, and all Montanan's that the assistance provided by these Centers drastically reduces the daunting task of leaping into the business world. The money invested in these centers is money returned to our local communities, encourages the youth of our state to stick around, and paves the way for a vibrant and resilient Montana.

Taylor Lyon is 25 years old. He received a B.A. in Biology from Carroll College and is currently pursuing a Master's degree in Environmental Studies at the University of Montana. Montana Biofuel Exchange LLC is currently based in Havre, MT.

Taylor can be reached at taylor@mtbx.net