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# STATE OF MONTANA

STEVE BULLOCK, GOVERNOR

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DEPARTMENT OF LIVESTOCK  
PO BOX 202001  
HELENA, MONTANA 59620-2001  
(406) 444-7323  
FAX (406) 444-1929



ANIMAL HEALTH DIVISION (406) 444-2043  
BRANDS ENFORCEMENT DIVISION (406) 444-2045  
CENTRALIZED SERVICES DIVISION (406) 444-4994  
EXECUTIVE OFFICE/BOARD OF LIVESTOCK (406) 444-9321  
MEAT & POULTRY INSPECTION DIVISION (406) 444-5202  
MILK & EGG BUREAU (406) 444-9761

August 19, 2016

Dave McEwen  
MWGA President  
1334 Coal Mine Rd.  
Galata, MT 59444

Dear Mr. McEwen,

I would like to extend my gratitude to you and the other members of the livestock industry for your willingness to bring together the entities who would occupy a proposed combined lab complex on or near the Montana State University campus in Bozeman. The plan for this complex is an ambitious one, considered for many years, but now in a place to finally move forward. The Montana Department of Livestock reaffirms our support for this project, agreeing to join our Veterinary Diagnostic Lab and Milk Lab (MVDL) with the other groups who have also committed to be a part of this project. This support was confirmed by the Board of Livestock at their meeting on August 15, 2016. We are willing to provide financial, material and human resource support to this effort as it moves forward.

We look forward to collaborating with the committee, Montana State University and the other committed laboratories in the months to come. Over the years, the MVDL has provided a critical service to Montana's producers that transcend the statutory requirement to do so. The vision of each entity involved to continue their services to the public is renewed in the concept for a modern combined lab facility and opens the door to expand and improve how we serve the state of Montana.

Thank you for your work in moving this forward. We count it an honor to be a part.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Honeycutt".

Mike Honeycutt  
Executive Officer  
Montana Department of Livestock