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State-Tribal Relations Committee

64th Montana Legislature

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July 10, 2015

Denise Juneau, Superintendent
Montana Office of Public Instruction
P.O. Box 202501
Helena, Montana 59620-2501

Dear Superintendent Juneau,

The State-Tribal Relations Interim Committee is very interested in the implementation of Senate Bill No. 272, the Cultural Integrity Commitment Act, recently enacted by the 2015 Legislature. As you're aware, SB 272 seeks to encourage school districts to create Indian language immersion programs to serve Indian and non-Indian students. The STRC believes promoting such innovative and culturally relevant programs will improve student achievement, strengthen families, and help preserve and perpetuate Indian language and culture throughout Indian country and Montana.

The STRC is invested in monitoring the implementation of SB 272. Recognizing that the \$45,000 one-time-only appropriation may be insufficient to support all interested school districts, we are particularly interested in how your office will determine which districts qualify for and how your office will apportion that funding. The STRC is committed to reviewing how that money might be bolstered by future legislatures.

Therefore, on behalf of the STRC, I respectfully ask that your office keep the committee abreast of all developments in the implementation of SB 272. The STRC would appreciate receiving updates at each of its upcoming meetings this interim. I ask that you please coordinate with our research analyst, Hope Stockwell, to this end.

Please let me know if I, or the committee, can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Chair, STRC