

Bridgett Lake-Cheff
35822 Spring Creek Rd.
Ronan, MT 59864

1/26/2023

Mr. Chairman and subcommittee members;

My name is Bridgett Lake-Cheff, I am currently the grain plant manager for Lake Seed Inc. in Ronan as well part of the MAES committee. I am writing this letter to voice my support for the Long Range Building proposal regarding the Montana Agriculture Experiment Stations.

I come to you with a unique appreciation for the BART Farm as well as all the Montana Agriculture Experiment Stations. My family has been farming in the Ronan area for over 80 years, raising certified seed potatoes and grain. Just like my grandpa, dad, and uncles before me, I attended MSU with a goal of an agriculture degree. The BART farm is more than just another experiment station, personally, it's three generations of the Lake family getting hands-on experience learning, and expanding our knowledge and farming practices. I can confidently say our success as a business and family farm goes hand in hand with MSU's drive to stay current with modern-day farming practices. This has been possible because of the past support provided by this committee, which is greatly appreciated.

Montana is a diverse state, every station has its own diverse needs, and Montana agriculture is moving forward by leaps and bounds. In summation, I ask you again to support the Long Range Building Plan proposed today. Growers are asking for varieties, management practices, and ways to diversify their operations. Providing the BART farm and other state agriculture stations with the proper facilities, tools, and updates is vital to the Montana agriculture sector. My family and the growers Lake Seed has supplied over the past several decades are dependent on the unbiased information provided by the experiment stations.

Thank you for your time and continued support you have provided the Montana Agriculture Experiment Stations.

Sincerely,

Bridgett Cheff
Lake Seed Inc.