

## SECTION F PUBLIC COMMENT

Monday 2/1/2021

### Details:

Bill: HB-5: Long-Range Building Appropriations 2021-02-03 08:30 AM - (H) JAS on Long-Range Planning

Position: Opponent

Representing an Entity/Another Person: No

Organization: N/A

Name: Marian Kale

Email: [marian.kale@umontana.edu](mailto:marian.kale@umontana.edu)

Phone: (406) 702-6699

City, State: Missoula, MT

Written Statement: Jan. 31, 2021

RE: HB5, Add the University of Montana's first priority major repairs project; "Music Building Infrastructure", to HB5.

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee,

My name is Marian Kale and I am a student residing in Missoula, Montana.

I support Music Building Infrastructure. The UM Music Building currently serves over 200 undergraduate and graduate students majoring in music-focused fields, and must be equipped to properly serve this large number of learners. The Music Building was built in 1953 and designed to serve only 100 students and 12 faculty members. In addition to the increase in undergraduate and graduate enrollment since its building, the UM School of Music hosts over 3,700 prospective students throughout the academic year in festivals, summer camps, and conferences. Due to the over 100% increase in both undergraduate enrollment and guest visitation, the music building would greatly benefit from allocated funds that would be used for renovations to enhance these student experiences.

My junior year of high school, I was fortunate enough to be a guest at the School of Music during an All State Music Festival. During that festival, the School of Music exhibited generous hospitality towards all students, directors, and administrators involved, and made all participants feel welcome. That All State Music Festival was one of the most rewarding and enriching experiences in my high school career, and greatly influenced my choice to attend school at the University of Montana. The UM School of Music would benefit from funds so they could use this money to renovate the building and provide more enriching and intellectually stimulating experiences for students for years to come.

Please include the University of Montana's first priority major repairs project; "Music Building Infrastructure", under HB5. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Marian Faith Kale

Files:

Testify via Zoom: No

Zoom Method: N/A

### Details:

Bill: HB-5: Long-Range Building Appropriations 2021-02-03 08:30 AM - (H) JAS on Long-Range Planning

Position: Opponent  
Representing an Entity/Another Person: No  
Organization: N/A  
Name: Morghan Anela Thomas  
Email: [morghan.thomas@umontana.edu](mailto:morghan.thomas@umontana.edu)  
Phone: (406) 941-2365  
City, State: Missoula, Montana  
Written Statement: RE: Add Music Building Infrastructure to HB5

This program is such an important part of people's life, and where they practice, study, and perform is even more important. Renovations to the music building will provide a more welcoming, safe, and accessible space for the family that is the school of music. Thank you!

Files:  
Testify via Zoom: No  
Zoom Method: N/A

Details:  
Bill: HB-5: Long-Range Building Appropriations 2021-02-03 08:30 AM - (H) JAS on Long-Range Planning  
Position: Opponent  
Representing an Entity/Another Person: No  
Organization: N/A  
Name: Spencer Kim  
Email: [spencer.kim@umontana.edu](mailto:spencer.kim@umontana.edu)  
Phone: (501) 454-7747  
City, State: Missoula, MT  
Written Statement: RE: Music Building, UM, HB5

The music building is long overdo for renovation. I've cleaned so many buildings as a custodian. The music building is more active than most of the other buildings and therefore needs some improvements. Music is way too important to be put in the background.

Files:  
Testify via Zoom: No  
Zoom Method: N/A

Details:  
Bill: HB-5: Long-Range Building Appropriations 2021-02-03 08:30 AM - (H) JAS on Long-Range Planning  
Position: Opponent  
Representing an Entity/Another Person: No  
Organization: N/A  
Name: Lane Johnathon Ulberg  
Email: [laneulberg1998@gmail.com](mailto:laneulberg1998@gmail.com)  
Phone: (406) 475-5441  
City, State: Missoula MT  
Written Statement: RE: UM Music Building Renovations on HB5

Mr. Chairman and committee members,

I am a music student at the University of Montana. Pre-COVID, I would spend 12+ hours in the music building every day in rehearsals, class, practice rooms, etc. I love the community of the building but the facilities that the School of Music has to use are inadequate and are heavily impeding the growth of our community. We cheered when we got an extra eight chairs in the building to sit on during our downtime, as ridiculous as it may seem. Our building is one of the front doors of our University and we currently are unable to put our best foot forward to incoming students. Please give us funding to renovate our building. Thank you for your time.

Files:

Testify via Zoom: No

Zoom Method: N/A

Bill: HB-5: Long-Range Building Appropriations 2021-02-03 08:30 AM - (H) JAS on Long-Range Planning

Position: Opponent

Representing an Entity/Another Person: No

Organization: N/A

Name: Cannon Shane

Email: [cannon.wyman@umconnect.umt.edu](mailto:cannon.wyman@umconnect.umt.edu)

Phone: (406) 897-3349

City, State: Missoula, MT

Written Statement: RE: HB5 and Music Building Infrastructure

Mr. Chairman,

Members of the committee,

The music building has been a place to learn and improve my knowledge and craft. However, it has been more difficult than I would hope for to focus on my education with the current state of the building I primarily study in. It is difficult to sit in a practice room and compose or practice flute when the room next door has a much louder instrument and there are very little soundproofing measures taken in these rooms. It is hard to focus in classes held on the main floor when you can hear the classes from the floor above, which often involve rehearsing or listening to music. Our lockers provide storage for our instruments, but many of them are broken or falling apart, presenting security concerns. Our elevator often gets stuck between floors or creaks when in use, which makes it sometimes frightening to use it to transport heavy and expensive equipment from each floor. The Music Building needs your representation.

Cannon Shane

Files:

Testify via Zoom: No

Zoom Method: N/A

Details:

Bill: HB-5: Long-Range Building Appropriations 2021-02-03 08:30 AM - (H) JAS on Long-Range Planning

Position: Opponent

Representing an Entity/Another Person: No

Organization: N/A

Name: David Allan Ailanjian

Email: [davidailanjian@gmail.com](mailto:davidailanjian@gmail.com)

Phone: (949) 235-4834

City, State: Lake Forest, CA

Written Statement: RE: Inclusion of UM Music Building Infrastructure Project on HB05

I am no musician, but music students at the University of Montana have made an invaluable difference in my life. Their knowledge of and passion for music that they have shared with me has enriched my appreciation for it to the point that I've been inspired to learn new instruments and revisit an old one. I have no doubt that they will go on to do the same beyond UM. The inclusion of Music Building Infrastructure on HB05 is vital to the future ability of UM to train and let flourish future music students with similar visions. The value of that cannot be underestimated.

Sincerely,

David Ailanjian

Files:

Testify via Zoom: No

Zoom Method: N/A

Details:

Bill: HB-5: Long-Range Building Appropriations 2021-02-03 08:30 AM - (H) JAS on Long-Range Planning

Position: Opponent

Representing an Entity/Another Person: No

Organization: N/A

Name: Nathan P. Mayhak

Email: [nathanpmayhak@gmail.com](mailto:nathanpmayhak@gmail.com)

Phone: (406) 607-7130

City, State: Missoula, Montana

Written Statement: RE: UM Music Building Infrastructure

The music building is home to not only incredible musicians, but amazing teachers, colleagues, and some of the best human beings I've met in my lifetime. It's incredibly important that HB5 includes the 1.5 million dollars to renovate the music building to ensure that our wonderful program stays accredited, and these people are able to have an education that isn't limited by the building they are confined in. I am completing the second half of my third year at the University of Montana. I'm currently studying Music Education so I can one day go out to a town and teach/share my love of music with students and give the future generation of Montana children the same passion that I was given. There have been several classes I've taken that not only taught me the required curriculum, but taught me valuable skills that I will apply to my entire life. The University of Montana School of Music is filled with incredible teachers, and a wonderful education that equips future teachers such as myself with the tools and skills necessary to create a thriving classroom. Without the funding that is currently not being included on HB5, our school has an incredible risk of no longer being accredited, which is disastrous from a student's perspective. Our school would no longer be able to give every student the best education possible, and many students would then turn away and go out of state to further their education. It is imperative that graduating students are given the opportunity to pursue a degree in music, because there are over 30 schools in the state that currently have no music teacher whatsoever. If the School of Music were to lose its accreditation, graduating students would not only have nowhere to learn important life skills for teaching music, but it also blocks them from going back to other towns in Montana, and teaching what they've learned to these small schools who have no music curriculum. To not include the much needed infrastructure renovations is to deny students all across Montana an education that will keep providing for their entire life, and the lives of each and every one of their students. For the sake of music education from rural towns such as Plentywood and Anaconda to big cities like Billings or Kalispell, please include the requested amount in its entirety on HB5.

Nathan Mayhak

Files:

Testify via Zoom: No

Zoom Method: N/A

Details:

Bill: HB-5: Long-Range Building Appropriations 2021-02-03 08:30 AM - (H) JAS on Long-Range Planning

Position: Opponent

Representing an Entity/Another Person: No

Organization: N/A

Name: Jayla Mitchell

Email: [jayla.mitchell@umontana.edu](mailto:jayla.mitchell@umontana.edu)

Phone: (406) 788-9108

City, State: Missoula, MT

Written Statement: January 4, 2021

RE: HB0005,

Supporting the Inclusion of the University of Montana's major repairs project; Music Building Infrastructure, in HB0005.

Dear Mr. Chairman and members of the committee,

My name is Jayla Mitchell and I am a student residing in Missoula, MT. I am writing to ask for your advocacy to include UM's first priority major repairs project, "Music Building Infrastructure," in HB5.

The Music Building serves as the headquarters of my education. I attend class, practice, study, attend performances, and perform myself in the building. While I am grateful for the opportunities provided by the building, it is in desperate need of repairs. First and foremost, the practice rooms are worn down. Not only do they have torn up carpets and doors that refuse to latch, but they also lack the proper sound-proof quality necessary for productive practice. Without sound-proof practice rooms, students are unable to practice without the distraction of other students working in the practice rooms. Being a cellist, it is easy for my sound to be drowned out by a percussionist or brass instrumentalist while I am trying to work. It has proven difficult working on my orchestra pieces, personal repertoire, and other commitments with the sound of other people working on their own pieces. Secondly, we only have one rehearsal room in the music building for eleven instrumental ensembles. The carpets in the rehearsal room are also in terrible shape and the room itself is dingy and cramped. The room has the potential to be a spacious and professional room, it just needs help getting there. Thirdly, the recital hall needs adjustments for modern needs. The stage is too small for the average size of our ensembles and the chairs in the audience are too small for the average person. Additionally, there is no wheelchair access to the stage in the recital hall from the audience. Everybody deserves access to the recital hall and, unfortunately, that is not a current reality. Lastly, the lobby would benefit from extra space and seating. Students often study and wait for the bus in the lobby, and with the limited space and chairs most congregate in the lobby and block the door. It makes it difficult to accommodate social distancing rules and creates an issue for people both entering and exiting the building from the lobby doors.

The Music Building/School of Music is the home of our education. Students spend entire days working in the music building. I, for one, spend an average of eight hours in the building on weekdays and three on weekends. Non-students also spend time in the building attending concerts and other events. For these reasons, it is essential to include "Music Building Infrastructure" under HB5 in the full amount of \$1,500,000 for Health and Life Safety improvements to the University of Montana's Music Building. The Music Building has received criticism in the past, and without renovations, the School of Music risks its accreditation status, which in turn risks a loss of incoming students. It is the school's adherence to high educational standards that continues to bring students from in and out of state to attend the University of Montana. As the only University in Montana with a serious focus on the arts, UM

must maintain and improve its quality of education for the future of the school, the students, and Montana's economy.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Jayla Mitchell

Files:

Testify via Zoom: No

Zoom Method: N/A

Details:

Bill: HB-5: Long-Range Building Appropriations 2021-02-03 08:30 AM - (H) JAS on Long-Range Planning

Position: Opponent

Representing an Entity/Another Person: No

Organization: N/A

Name: Allison High

Email: [allisonhigh@msn.com](mailto:allisonhigh@msn.com)

Phone: (406) 531-8612

City, State: Missoula, Montana

Written Statement: RE: Music Building Infrastructure

The UM music building has been a big part of my education starting my freshman year of high school, I attended festivals, camps, workshops, masterclasses, competitions, etc. held in the music building. My impressions of the facility have always been lacking in comparison to the faculty and student dedication and professionalism. Dozens of high schools and middle schools bring their entire music programs to our campus for various festivals throughout the year, and I'm sure every single director would tell you the same thing; students and faculty of the UM music program have the upmost professionalism and dedication, however, the facilities are extremely lacking. From the extremely unsafe elevator, to the multiple holes in the walls/floor/ceiling of the practice rooms. This building has been in desperate need of renovations for years, possibly decades. This can't wait any longer.

Allison High

Files:

Testify via Zoom: No

Zoom Method: N/A

Details:

Bill: HB-14: Long-Range Building Bonding Program 2021-02-03 08:30 AM - (H) JAS on Long-Range Planning

Position: Proponent

Representing an Entity/Another Person: No

Organization: N/A

Name: David L McEwen

Email: [uslamb@northerntel.net](mailto:uslamb@northerntel.net)

Phone: (406) 937-5845

City, State: Galata, Mt

Written Statement: will comment via zoom

Files:

Testify via Zoom: Yes

Zoom Method: Computer

Details:

Bill: HB-5: Long-Range Building Appropriations 2021-02-03 08:30 AM - (H) JAS on Long-Range Planning

Position: Opponent

Representing an Entity/Another Person: No

Organization: N/A

Name: Brianna Maxwell

Email: [Brianna.maxwell@umconnect.untl.edu](mailto:Brianna.maxwell@umconnect.untl.edu)

Phone: (307) 899-2718

City, State: Missoula, MT

Written Statement: RE: Music-HB5

The music building is probably the least renovated building that I've had class in, so far. There really needs to be better storage for instruments and more ventilation in the upstairs choir room so that our ensembles can actually practice in there. The basement in particular could use new paint and flooring. It is also important to mention that a lot of the building is not accessible by wheelchair because of strange changes in the floor level, and the ancient elevator. Please help.

Brianna Maxwell

Files:

Testify via Zoom: No

Zoom Method: N/A

Details:

Bill: HB-5: Long-Range Building Appropriations 2021-02-03 08:30 AM - (H) JAS on Long-Range Planning

Position: Opponent

Representing an Entity/Another Person: No

Organization: N/A

Name: Tyrel Wilder

Email: [Jetstream260@gmail.com](mailto:Jetstream260@gmail.com)

Phone: (928) 848-6354

City, State: Missoula, MT

Written Statement: RE: Music Building Infrastructure Including this in the bill is vital to the music department and its prosperity .

Tyrel Rider

Files:

Testify via Zoom: No

Zoom Method: N/A

Details:

Bill: HB-5: Long-Range Building Appropriations 2021-02-03 08:30 AM - (H) JAS on Long-Range Planning

Position: Opponent

Representing an Entity/Another Person: No

Organization: N/A

Name: Josef Pifer

Email: [josef.pifer@umontana.edu](mailto:josef.pifer@umontana.edu)

Phone: (541) 914-6404

City, State: Missoula, MT

Written Statement: RE: HB5 needs (UM-MBI)

The school of music and the music building are important parts of the University of Montana and Missoula. Its longstanding history of excellence is a draw for students. For me as a student, when I was deciding which school to attend the schools of music were one of the important deciding factors. This is a consideration that led me to the University of Montana. Even though I'm not a music major, music is a passion of mine. It was important for me to continue to be involved in music programs in college while also continuing my studies. Without the accreditation of the UM School of Music, I may have chosen to attend a different university. That's why the Music Building Infrastructure under HB5 is so important. The school of music will continue to uphold a longstanding tradition of excellence and will uphold the draw that the school of music has on students from Montana and the rest of the United States.

Thank you,

Josef Pifer

Files:

Testify via Zoom: No

Zoom Method: N/A

Details:

Bill: HB-14: Long-Range Building Bonding Program 2021-02-03 08:30 AM - (H) JAS on Long-Range Planning

Position: Proponent

Representing an Entity/Another Person: No

Organization: N/A

Name: Craig Rawlings

Email: [craig@forestbusinessnetwork.com](mailto:craig@forestbusinessnetwork.com)

Phone: (406) 240-0300

City, State: Missoula, Montana

Written Statement: Not Provided

Files:

Testify via Zoom: No

Zoom Method: N/A

Details:

Bill: HB-5: Long-Range Building Appropriations 2021-02-03 08:30 AM - (H) JAS on Long-Range Planning

Position: Informational Witness

Representing an Entity/Another Person: Yes

Organization: University of Montana Student Music Union

Name: Noah Durnell

Email: [noah.durnell@umontana.edu](mailto:noah.durnell@umontana.edu)

Phone: (406) 788-2947

City, State: Missoula, MT

Written Statement: RE: Informative-University of Montana Music Building Infrastructure, Major Repairs Project

Chairman Hopkins and members of the committee,

My name is Noah Durnell and I represent the Student Music Union at the University of Montana as their President; a union of 20 student groups with over 500 members.

Please find relative and cited information regarding this projects's recent history attached. Thank you all for your commitment to the LRBP allocations and to serving your many college-aged constituents. I ask that you reference this information in considering to include UM's first priority major repairs project "Music Building Infrastructure" in HB5.

Noah Durnell

SMU President

Files: Compiled MB Information.pdf

Testify via Zoom: No

Zoom Method: N/A

#### **WHO USES THE BUILDING - WHAT DOES IT HOST?**

- The Music Building hosts all professional level degrees in the School of Music at UM
- The Music Building was built in 1953 and designed to serve 100 students, with studio space for 12 faculty
  - Enrollment in the School of Music has significantly increased, currently enrolling 214 undergraduate and graduate students majoring in music focused fields
  - Though enrollment in the School of Music has steadily increased over time, the Music Building has never been expanded to service these needs, and has only undergone minor renovations
- The Music Building hosts non-majors within its general education courses, education electives, Student Music Union (SMU) groups, and the Grizzly Marching Band (GMB).
  - The Music Building hosts classes for education majors and elective music courses for non majors
  - The Music Building hosts the largest general education course on campus, The History of Rock and Roll
  - The Grizzly Marching Band is usually around 130 members, half of which are usually non-majors. They all use lockers in the Music Building.
- Locker space was built for 100 people but currently services, roughly, 279.
  - Many students share limited space or haul their instruments to and from campus daily as a result.
- The Music Building operates as one of UM's most important public interfaces in which it is the main stop for ASUM transportation and a host to most community ensembles and organizations. Including...
  - Missoula Symphony Orchestra and Chorale
  - Montana Music Teachers Association
  - String Orchestra of the Rockies
  - Montana Music Educators Association.
- The Music Building hosts a wide array of ensemble credits that enroll students of all majors at UM;
- The UM School of Music is an ambassador of recruitment efforts on and off campus through interstate and intrastate touring, hosted competitions, and K-12 festivals;
  - The Music Building welcomes up to 3,700 prospective University of Montana students through the festivals it hosts alone during the years that All State is hosted at the University. Including...
    - Montana's All-State Music Festival and Competitions
    - Northwest Music Educators National Conferences
    - Society of Composers, Inc. Conferences
    - International Choral Festival
    - International Duo Symposium
    - Northwest Horn Symposium
    - UM All Stars Music Festival

**Tuesday 2/2/2021**

Details:

Bill: HB-14: Long-Range Building Bonding Program 2021-02-03 08:30 AM - (H) JAS on Long-Range Planning

Position: Proponent

Representing an Entity/Another Person: No

Organization: N/A

Name: Arnie Didier

Email: [arnie@forestbusinessnetwork.com](mailto:arnie@forestbusinessnetwork.com)

Phone: (406) 544-1552

City, State: Missoula

Written Statement: The time is now for Mass timber and the use of wood products. The UOM is a perfect place to showcase the use of Mass timber and the Forest Industry of Montana. Many large Tech companies like Google, Facebook and Microsoft are big supporters of Mass Timber.

Files:

Testify via Zoom: No

Zoom Method: N/A

Details:

Bill: HB-5: Long-Range Building Appropriations 2021-02-03 08:30 AM - (H) JAS on Long-Range Planning

Position: Opponent

Representing an Entity/Another Person: No

Organization: N/A

Name: Jethro Thorne

Email: [jethro.thorne@umontana.edu](mailto:jethro.thorne@umontana.edu)

Phone: (406) 214-4613

City, State: Missoula, MT

Written Statement: RE: UM MUSIC BUILDING

It has been ten years since I first stepped foot inside the University of Montana's music building. I am very grateful for the time I have gotten to spend in it since then and it is a location that holds many memories in my heart. Our music has stood the test of time, but I'm afraid the building is falling far behind. What once was a place of enjoyment is now a place that I don't care for. I put in extra effort to find time to practice my instrument so as to avoid hearing other player's melodies from bleeding through every wall. When having honest conversations with friends who are interested in the UofM's school of music, I boast as much as I can about how superior our program is. But, when discussing the cons, there is no amount of boasting that could make this building appear as a structure fit for creating art.

Jethro Thorne

Files:

Testify via Zoom: No

Zoom Method: N/A

Details:

Bill: HB-5: Long-Range Building Appropriations 2021-02-03 08:30 AM - (H) JAS on Long-Range Planning

Position: Opponent

Representing an Entity/Another Person: No

Organization: N/A

Name: Jethro Thorne

Email: [jethro.thorne@umontana.edu](mailto:jethro.thorne@umontana.edu)

Phone: (406) 214-4613

City, State: Missoula, MT

Written Statement: RE: UM MUSIC BUILDING

It has been ten years since I first stepped foot inside the University of Montana's music building. I am very grateful for the time I have gotten to spend in it since then and it is a location that holds many memories in my heart. Our music has stood the test of time, but I'm afraid the building is falling far behind. What once was a place of enjoyment is now a place that I don't care for. I put in extra effort to find time to practice my instrument so as to avoid hearing other player's melodies from bleeding through every wall. When having honest conversations with friends who are interested in the UofM's school of music, I boast as much as I can about how superior our program is. But, when discussing the cons, there is no amount of boasting that could make this building appear as a structure fit for creating art.

Jethro Thorne

Files:

Testify via Zoom: No

Zoom Method: N/A

Details:

Bill: HB-5: Long-Range Building Appropriations 2021-02-03 08:30 AM - (H) JAS on Long-Range Planning

Position: Opponent

Representing an Entity/Another Person: No

Organization: N/A

Name: Jethro Thorne

Email: [jethro.thorne@umontana.edu](mailto:jethro.thorne@umontana.edu)

Phone: (406) 214-4613

City, State: Missoula, MT

Written Statement: RE: UM MUSIC BUILDING

It has been ten years since I first stepped foot inside the University of Montana's music building. I am very grateful for the time I have gotten to spend in it since then and it is a location that holds many memories in my heart. Our music has stood the test of time, but I'm afraid the building is falling far behind. What once was a place of enjoyment is now a place that I don't care for. I put in extra effort to find time to practice my instrument so as to avoid hearing other player's melodies from bleeding through every wall. When having honest conversations with friends who are interested in the UofM's school of music, I boast as much as I can about how superior our program is. But, when discussing the cons, there is no amount of boasting that could make this building appear as a structure fit for creating art.

Jethro Thorne

Files:

Testify via Zoom: No

Zoom Method: N/A

Details:

Bill: HB-5: Long-Range Building Appropriations 2021-02-03 08:30 AM - (H) JAS on Long-Range Planning

Position: Opponent

Representing an Entity/Another Person: No

Organization: N/A

Name: Aidan Robinson

Email: [arob6521@gmail.com](mailto:arob6521@gmail.com)

Phone: (406) 208-9558

City, State: Missoula Montana

Written Statement: RE: University of Montana Music Building Infrastructure, HB5

My name is Aidan, and this program, and subsequently, music, has changed my life and shaped me in an unforgettable way. Coming to this school, I didn't know music was my passion, I did it because I didn't know what else to really go into. When I came here and saw the building, and the condition it was in, it was almost enough to make me change my mind entirely about continuing my music degree. But, after experiencing everything this program, these teachers, and their students have to offer, it has made me realize that the building is not representative of the program, and it should be. Everyone who comes here and all the teachers who have been here for years deserve nothing less than a renovation for their humble building for everything they do and provide for the school of music and the University of Montana as a whole.

Thank you,

Aidan Robinson

Files:

Testify via Zoom: No

Zoom Method: N/A

Details:

Bill: HB-5: Long-Range Building Appropriations 2021-02-03 08:30 AM - (H) JAS on Long-Range Planning

Position: Opponent

Representing an Entity/Another Person: No

Organization: N/A

Name: Sara Betz

Email: [sara.betz@umconnect.umt.edu](mailto:sara.betz@umconnect.umt.edu)

Phone: (573) 337-8810

City, State: Missoula Montana

Written Statement: With renovations to the University of Montana School of music, I would succeed much more as a student with a top grade learning environment for making music. Especially as a music major, I appreciate greatly the space I am able to work in.

Please Consider adding UM Music Building Infrastructure project to HB5 Sara Betz

Files:

Testify via Zoom: No

Zoom Method: N/A

Details:

Bill: HB-5: Long-Range Building Appropriations 2021-02-04 08:30 AM - (H) JAS on Long-Range Planning

Position: Proponent

Representing an Entity/Another Person: Yes

Organization: Montana Department of Transportation

Name: Mike Murolo

Email: [mmurolo@mt.gov](mailto:mmurolo@mt.gov)

Phone: (406) 444-6163

City, State: Helena Montana

Written Statement: Tim Conway and Jon Swartz are available using the same link. We will all be present in MDT's auditorium.

Files:

Testify via Zoom: Yes

Zoom Method: Computer

Details:

Bill: HB-14: Long-Range Building Bonding Program 2021-02-04 08:30 AM - (H) JAS on Long-Range Planning

Position: Proponent

Representing an Entity/Another Person: Yes

Organization: Montana Department of Livestock

Name: Gregory Juda

Email: [gregory.juda@mt.gov](mailto:gregory.juda@mt.gov)

Phone: (406) 465-2182

City, State: Manhattan, MT

Written Statement: Not Provided

Files:

Testify via Zoom: Yes

Zoom Method: Computer

Details:

Bill: HB-14: Long-Range Building Bonding Program 2021-02-04 08:30 AM - (H) JAS on Long-Range Planning

Position: Proponent

Representing an Entity/Another Person: Yes

Organization: Dept. of Livestock

Name: Martin A. Zaluski

Email: [mzaluski@mt.gov](mailto:mzaluski@mt.gov)

Phone: (406) 444-0782

City, State: Clancy

Written Statement: Registered a few minutes ago, but didn't click to request Zoom link. Available in support of Mike Honeycutt's (DOL) presentation.

Files:

Testify via Zoom: Yes

Zoom Method: Computer

Details:

Bill: HB-14: Long-Range Building Bonding Program 2021-02-03 08:30 AM - (H) JAS on Long-Range Planning

Position: Proponent

Representing an Entity/Another Person: Yes

Organization: Montana Ag Experiment Station Advisory Board

Name: Bryan M. Mauws

Email: [mauws00@yahoo.com](mailto:mauws00@yahoo.com)

Phone: (406) 366-6301

City, State: Judith Gap, MT

Written Statement: The Montana Agricultural Experiment Stations have a long and enduring history going back more than a century. The stations, dispersed throughout the state are historic and of great importance to the Ag Economy.

Many of the building are very old and the original purpose has long since passed. Diligent efforts have been made to repurpose and remodel to meet the needs of our researchers. The fact remains our scientists and researchers need adequate and up-to-date space to conduct their research.

I ask you on behalf of countless farmers and ranchers across the state. Please support and fund the Montana Ag Experiment Stations Long Range Building Plan chemistry labs, horticultural facility, and wool lab. Thank you for your time.

Files:

Testify via Zoom: Yes

Zoom Method: Computer

Details:

Bill: HB-5: Long-Range Building Appropriations 2021-02-04 08:30 AM - (H) JAS on Long-Range Planning

Position: Proponent

Representing an Entity/Another Person: Yes

Organization: Montana Department of Justice

Name: Glen Stinar

Email: [gstinar@mt.gov](mailto:gstinar@mt.gov)

Phone: (406) 444-9957

City, State: Helena

Written Statement: Montana Department of Justice Scenario Training Building

The Montana Department of Justice Law Enforcement Academy (MLEA) is the only Academy in the state and charged with providing entry level training to Montana's public safety community.

Public safety calls for service are rarely static encounters and almost always require peace officers to make decisions on the fly given the totality of the circumstances as they unfold before them in real time. Calls for service or traffic stops that take a relatively short period of time on the job take days to train to proficiency in a basic course for new officers. For MLEA training staff, the task is to realistically replicate these encounters in a controlled, safe environment in preparing students for duty when they return to their agencies and communities. Among the training challenges are the extreme weather-related conditions Montana exposes students and MLEA staff to when training outdoors as well as the need to replicate all aspects of a scenario call from dispatch to resolution in a fluid manner. Prolonged exposure to cold temperatures and precipitation causes students and staff to become sick and degrades training. They can also be injured when exposed to icy conditions and snow-covered ground. Additionally, calls for service and traffic stops have several components to them, each of which is broken down, trained to, and evaluated by MLEA staff during training before finally conducted in their entirety at real-time speeds. For some students, this their first exposure to the types of work they will be doing.

The quality of training the MLEA provides directly relates to the quality of service by public safety officers in the communities they serve. At just over 10,000 sq. ft., the scenario building will be a climate-controlled training environment housing a smaller version of a city street with curbs and sidewalks. The street will be flanked by building facades that represent businesses and residences found in any police agencies jurisdiction. Complete with furniture and other items, these facades will realistically replicate business and residential settings. A jail sally port and booking area will be located at the end of the building so students can experience arresting, transporting, and booking a prisoner. Students will be dispatched to simulated, real-time calls and evaluated on a full range of scenario-based elements including problem solving, communications, application of law, ethics, use of force, survival skills, de-escalation techniques, crime scene investigations, community policing and diversity.

There is no substitute to training in real world weather conditions and MLEA basic programs do include this important element. The value of the scenario building will be in safely investing the hours necessary in developing the students skills before exposing them to realistic weather related work conditions. The Montana Highway Patrol also conducts training at the MLEA and would take advantage of the building during their 10 week advanced academy for new recruits and other in-service training requirements. Lastly, as a state facility, public safety agencies from across Montana would have access to it to conduct agency specific training as well.

A picture is provided showing students practicing arrest techniques in cold weather. This is one example of training that would move into the scenario building.

Files:

Testify via Zoom: Yes

Zoom Method: Computer

Details:

Bill: HB-5: Long-Range Building Appropriations 2021-02-04 08:30 AM - (H) JAS on Long-Range Planning

Position: Proponent

Representing an Entity/Another Person: Yes

Organization: Montana Department of Transportation

Name: Jon Swartz

Email: [joswartz@mt.gov](mailto:joswartz@mt.gov)

Phone: (406) 444-6158

City, State: Helena, MT

Written Statement: Mike Murolo, MDT Facilities Bureau Chief will be presenting HB 5 for the Montana Department of Transportation. Jon Swartz, MDT Maintenance Administrator and Tim Conway, Aeronautics Administrator will also be available for questions.

Files:

Testify via Zoom: Yes

Zoom Method: Computer

Details:

Bill: HB-14: Long-Range Building Bonding Program 2021-02-04 08:30 AM - (H) JAS on Long-Range Planning

Position: Informational Witness

Representing an Entity/Another Person: Yes

Organization: Montana Department of Agriculture

Name: Ian Foley

Email: [ifoley@mt.gov](mailto:ifoley@mt.gov)

Phone: (406) 444-9454

City, State: Helena

Written Statement: Primary Informational Witness on behalf of the department of Agriculture.

Files:

Testify via Zoom: Yes

Zoom Method: Computer

Details:

Bill: HB-14: Long-Range Building Bonding Program 2021-02-04 08:30 AM - (H) JAS on Long-Range Planning

Position: Informational Witness

Representing an Entity/Another Person: Yes

Organization: Montana Department of Agriculture

Name: Jona Verreth

Email: [jverreth@mt.gov](mailto:jverreth@mt.gov)

Phone: (406) 557-7918

City, State: Bozeman, MT

Written Statement: Secondary Informational Witness on behalf of the department of agriculture.

Files:

Testify via Zoom: Yes

Zoom Method: Computer

Details:

Bill: HB-14: Long-Range Building Bonding Program 2021-02-04 08:30 AM - (H) JAS on Long-Range Planning

Position: Informational Witness

Representing an Entity/Another Person: Yes

Organization: Montana Department of Agriculture

Name: Christy Clark

Email: [cclark@mt.gov](mailto:cclark@mt.gov)

Phone: (406) 444-5406

City, State: Helena

Written Statement: Secondary Informational Witness on behalf of the department of agriculture

Files:

Testify via Zoom: Yes

Zoom Method: Computer

Details:

Bill: HB-14: Long-Range Building Bonding Program 2021-02-04 08:30 AM - (H) JAS on Long-Range Planning

Position: Informational Witness

Representing an Entity/Another Person: Yes

Organization: Montana Department of Agriculture

Name: Cindy Trimp

Email: [cindytrimp@mt.gov](mailto:cindytrimp@mt.gov)

Phone: (406) 444-5408

City, State: Helena

Written Statement: Secondary Informational Witness on behalf of the department of agriculture.

Files:

Testify via Zoom: Yes

Zoom Method: Computer

Details:

Bill: HB-5: Long-Range Building Appropriations 2021-02-04 08:30 AM - (H) JAS on Long-Range Planning

Position: Proponent

Representing an Entity/Another Person: Yes

Organization: Department of Corrections

Name: Jim Salmonsens

Email: [jisalmonsens@mt.gov](mailto:jisalmonsens@mt.gov)

Phone: (406) 415-6200

City, State: Deer Lodge

Written Statement: Not Provided

Files:

Testify via Zoom: Yes

Zoom Method: Computer

Details:

Bill: HB-5: Long-Range Building Appropriations 2021-02-04 08:30 AM - (H) JAS on Long-Range Planning

Position: Proponent

Representing an Entity/Another Person: Yes

Organization: Montana Learning Center

Name: Ryan Hannahoe

Email: [MontanaLearningCenter@gmail.com](mailto:MontanaLearningCenter@gmail.com)

Phone: (406) 451-2082

City, State: Helena, MT

Written Statement: Not Provided

Files: MLC Board Ltr of Support to Subcommittee.pdf MLC Fact Sheet.pdf MLC Testimony - Ryan Hannahoe.pdf

Testify via Zoom: No Zoom Method: N/A

Written Testimony of Ryan Hannahoe

To the House Joint Appropriations Subcommittee on Long-Range Planning

67th Montana Legislature

February 4, 2021

Chairman Hopkins, Vice-Chair Cuffe, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Ryan Hannahoe. I am the Executive Director of Montana Learning Center at Canyon Ferry Lake (referred to as the "Learning Center" in the rest of my testimony).

I appreciate the opportunity to present this testimony regarding the importance of the Learning Center's programs to Montana's student and teachers. I also am asking for your support in retaining the \$300,000 currently included in the Long-Range Building Program budget in HB5 to fund the replacement of the water and sewer system servicing the State-owned buildings on the Learning Center's campus.

The Learning Center's roots date back to 1984 when two Helena science teachers started offering summer science programs for students at Canyon Ferry Lake. Some years later, one of the Learning Center's precursors added science and math teacher training programs. Over the years, tens of thousands of students and thousands of teachers have attended programs offered by the Learning Center and its precursors. Many, many more students and teachers have benefitted from the Learning Center's programs indirectly because the students and teachers who attend Learning Center programs bring their new knowledge and experiences back to their schools and share that knowledge and those experiences with other students and teachers. In 2020 alone, 250 teachers participated in various Learning Center training programs, potentially benefitting roughly 25,000 students.

In addition to offering summer science camps and teacher training programs, the Learning Center is one of only two NASA partners in Montana (the other being MSU). The Learning Center's partnership with NASA allows the Learning Center to offer students the opportunity to participate in NASA's annual, nationwide robotics challenges. It also allows the Learning Center, in collaboration with the Museum of Flight in Seattle and the University of Washington, to offer Montana high school students the opportunity to participate in the Western Aerospace Scholars program. The front side of the Fact Sheet attached to my written testimony briefly describes some of the other programs the Learning Center offers students.

The Learning Center's STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) programs have sparked an interest in STEM disciplines in many of the students attending those programs. That

# MONTANA LEARNING CENTER

at Canyon Ferry Lake



## Montana Learning Center provides unique learning opportunities for students and teachers

As everyone knows, providing quality education is expensive. Montana's K-12 public schools often lack the economic resources needed to both provide students with the kind of experiential learning in science, technology, engineering, arts and math (STEAM) they need to prepare them for the careers of tomorrow and adequately support STEAM teachers' professional development needs. Montana Learning Center at Canyon Ferry Lake (MLC) plays a critical role in filling those gaps.



Students and members of MLC's teaching staff work with MLC's robotic telescope at its Canyon Ferry Lake facility—part of the largest public-use observatory in Montana.



MLC campers work alongside paleontologists to excavate a mosasaur, a 45' to 50' long marine reptile that lived 75 million years ago.

Founded in 2004, MLC has expanded upon the work of two Montana science teachers and their successors, developing and providing quality, hands-on, STEAM experiences for children and training for teachers. Over the years, tens of thousands of children and hundreds of educators have benefitted from these efforts.

MLC offers children from throughout Montana a variety of unique, hands-on summer camp programs. One of MLC's camps has students traveling to Ekalaka to learn about paleontology and participate in an active dig. Another MLC camp focuses on astronomy, teaching students about the night sky using MLC's research-grade telescopes. MLC camps have a student-to-teacher ratio of 8-to-1 or better, allowing MLC's staff to give each student the personal attention they need to make the most of their MLC experience.

MLC also is one of only two NASA partners in Montana (the other being Montana State University), which allows MLC to offer students opportunities to participate in NASA's annual robotics challenges and in the Western Aerospace Scholars program sponsored by the Museum of Flight in Seattle and the University of Washington.



The all-Native American team that won the Judges' Choice Award for Montana in the NASA Apollo Next Giant Leap Student Challenge visit the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, CA. The all-expenses paid trip to the lab and behind-the-scenes experience was the team's prize for winning the Award.



# MONTANA LEARNING CENTER

*at Canyon Ferry Lake*

January 24, 2021

House Joint Appropriations Subcommittee on Long-Range Planning

Representative Mike Hopkins, Chairman  
Senator Mike Cuffe, Vice Chair  
Senator Ellie Boldman, Member  
Representative Jim Hamilton, Member  
Senator Cary Smith, Member  
Representative Sue Vinton, Member

Montana State Capitol  
1301 E. 6th Avenue, Room 317B  
Helena, MT 59601

Re: Funding for Montana Learning Center Civil Infrastructure Upgrades  
HB5 Long-Range Building Program Priority MR-01

Dear Members of the House Joint Appropriations Subcommittee on Long-Range Planning:

As the Executive Director and the President of the Board of Directors, on behalf of the entire Board of Directors, of Montana Learning Center at Canyon Ferry Lake (referred to as the "Learning Center" below), we are writing to ask that you approve the \$300,000 in funding currently included in the Long-Range Building Program budget in HB5 for a vitally important infrastructure project at the Learning Center. This funding will allow the Learning Center to continue its high-quality, unique, experiential, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) focused, educational enrichment programs for Montana students and Montana science and math teachers.

The Learning Center's campus at Canyon Ferry Lake consists of buildings owned by the State of Montana and land owned by the federal Bureau of Reclamation. The buildings on the Learning Center's campus were built in the late 1940s to house the workers building the dam that created Canyon Ferry Lake. As described further in the enclosed Fact Sheet prepared by the State, the Montana Department of Administration has evaluated the current water and sewer system in the Learning Center's buildings and determined that all of the water and sewer pipes and the pump house systems need to be replaced as soon as possible.

Since the buildings are State-owned, the State is responsible for ensuring the ongoing safety and integrity of the buildings, including the buildings' water and sewer system. The current water and sewer system in the Learning Center's buildings represent a health hazard to the Learning Center's staff, participants in the Learning Center's programs and visitors to the Learning Center campus.

If the funding to replace the water and sewer system is not included in HB5, it is possible that the Montana Department of Environmental Quality will require the Learning Center to cease on-site operations until funding is obtained and the system is replaced. This would have a catastrophic effect on the Learning Center. It would mean the loss of most of its revenue, on top of last year's lost revenue and increased expenses due to the pandemic. Ceasing its on-site operations for at least two years (until the 2023 legislative session) likely would mean the end of the Learning Center and its many unique and highly impactful programs.

Details:

Bill: HB-5: Long-Range Building Appropriations 2021-02-04 08:30 AM - (H) JAS on Long-Range Planning

Position: Proponent

Representing an Entity/Another Person: No

Organization: N/A

Name: Dari Quirk

Email: [quirk@vcn.com](mailto:quirk@vcn.com)

Phone: (307) 231-5978

City, State: Missoula, MT

Written Statement: My testimony, which is attached here, is in support of MR-01 - Learning Center Civil Infrastructure Upgrades - Office of Public Instruction.

Files: MLC - Dari Quirk Testimony.pdf

Testify via Zoom: Yes

Zoom Method: Computer

Written Testimony of Dari Quirk

To the House Joint Appropriations Subcommittee on Long-Range Planning

67th Montana Legislature

February 4, 2021

Chairman Hopkins, Vice-Chair Cuffe, and Members of the Committee:

Good afternoon. My name is Dari Quirk and I live in Missoula. It is a pleasure to be here.

I appreciate this opportunity to share with you why, as the parent of a longtime camper and now junior counselor at Montana Learning Center at Canyon Ferry Lake (referred to as the "Learning Center" in the rest of my testimony), I consider the Learning Center to be a true treasure in our Treasure State. Because of the important educational and transformative work done at the Learning Center, it is crucial that the \$300,000 currently included in the Long-Range Building Program budget in HB5 to fund the replacement of the water and sewer system in the State-owned buildings on the Learning Center's campus be retained to ensure that the Learning Center can continue to flourish and grow.

My family and I moved to Missoula almost eight years ago when my son, Colton, was going into the fifth grade. He is now a senior at Hellgate High School in Missoula. Colton has participated in programs at the Learning Center for the past six years. He began with just a weeklong STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) camp the summer after sixth grade, exploring activities such as LEGO robotics and hydro-engineering. This past summer, he participated in two sessions as a camper and four sessions as a junior counselor – spending a total of six weeks at the Learning Center.

When Colton first attended one of the Learning Center's camps, he was very excited about the STEM activities, but he was very shy and nervous about being away from home. But when I picked him up at the end of his weeklong camp, he immediately asked if he could please go back the following summer. As the summers went on, Colton attended camp at the Learning Center for additional weeks each summer. Colton has developed an interest in physics and astronomy because of the Learning Center's astronomy park and astronomy camp.

Without exception, we have always been so impressed with the quality of the instructors and the level of inquiry of the programming at the Learning Center. Additionally, the setting is so picturesque and provides the campers with the opportunity to hike along the hills and canoe or boat on Canyon Ferry Lake – a great balance to the STEM activities. As a parent, dropping off Colton at the Learning Center each summer, I know that he will have a positive and engaging experience. These types of programs are few and far between, and we are so fortunate to have such high quality programming right here in Montana.

Details:

Bill: HB-5: Long-Range Building Appropriations 2021-02-04 08:30 AM - (H) JAS on Long-Range Planning

Position: Proponent

Representing an Entity/Another Person: No

Organization: N/A

Name: Heath Caldwell

Email: [hebo6767@gmail.com](mailto:hebo6767@gmail.com)

Phone: (406) 461-6931

City, State: Clancy, MT

Written Statement: My testimony, which is attached here, is in support of MR-01 - Learning Center Civil Infrastructure Upgrades - Office of Public Instruction.

Files: MLC - Heath Caldwell Testimony.pdf Testify via Zoom: Yes Zoom Method: Computer

Written Testimony of Heath Caldwell

To the House Joint Appropriations Subcommittee on Long-Range Planning

67<sup>th</sup> Montana Legislature

February 4, 2021

Chairman Hopkins, Vice-Chair Cuffe, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Heath Caldwell. I currently am a senior at Helena High School with a passion for the sciences. I was a camper for a number of years at Montana Learning Center at Canyon Ferry Lake (referred to as the "Learning Center" in the rest of my testimony) and more recently have worked as a camp counselor for the Learning Center. I am speaking to you today to advocate for retaining the \$300,000 included in the Long-Range Building Program budget in HBS to fund the replacement of the entire water and sewer system at the Learning Center.

Spending part of my summers at the Learning Center as a camper allowed me to explore my interests in various STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) fields and gain a deeper understanding of topics that were only glossed over in school. The camps offered by the Learning Center cover an ever-increasing number of STEM subjects, helping to ensure that campers have the opportunity to develop a passion for what may have been only have been a passing interest before.

When I first attended one of the Learning Center's camps, I was reluctant to interact with any of my fellow campers or the staff because I was relatively shy at the time. I soon learned that everyone else shared the same interests that I did. Through the shared passions of my fellow campers, I have made many close friends that I am still in touch with to this day.

The Learning Center teaches students in a way that a conventional school simply cannot do. In a typical classroom, a teacher may have 25 or more students, while the camps at the Learning Center typically have no more than eight students assigned to a given staff member. The much higher student load carried by most school teachers means that they lecture to a great extent and have a more limited ability to engage students interactively, as the Learning Center camps do. In addition, in the typical classroom, students are generally confined to a desk, while at the Learning Center, much of the teaching goes on outdoors.

The limitations of a typical classroom can drive students away from pursuing careers in the STEM fields. The staff at the Learning Center, however, are well trained, both in teaching the material to students, as well as using the resources they have at their disposal to make these concepts as engaging as possible. Through the Learning Center, I was able to participate in a variety of field trips, including visits to aircraft production sites and guided hikes with professional geologists. It was through the Learning Center, in fact, that I developed my passion for the Earth sciences. I plan to major in Earth Science and Biology at Montana State University in pursuit of my dream career as a paleontologist. These camps help children and teenagers understand the true wonder of the sciences and how exciting they actually are.

Outside of my experiences as a camper, the Learning Center has been very enthusiastic about supporting local youth in their scientific and public service endeavors. Numerous Eagle Scout projects have been completed on the Learning Center's property. My own Eagle Scout project involved the construction of a wheelchair ramp for one of the recently constructed observatories. Because of the

Details:

Bill: HB-5: Long-Range Building Appropriations 2021-02-04 08:30 AM - (H) JAS on Long-Range Planning

Position: Proponent

Representing an Entity/Another Person: No

Organization: N/A

Name: Jon Dilliard

Email: [jkdilliard@charter.net](mailto:jkdilliard@charter.net)

Phone: (406) 202-5228

City, State: Helena, MT

Written Statement: My testimony, which is attached here, is in support of MR-01 - Learning Center Civil Infrastructure Upgrades - Office of Public Instruction.

Files: MLC - Jon Dilliard Testimony.pdf Testify via Zoom: No Zoom Method: N/A

Written Testimony of Jon Dilliard  
To the House Joint Appropriations Subcommittee on Long-Range Planning  
67th Montana Legislature  
February 4, 2021

Chairman Hopkins, Vice-Chair Cuffe, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Jon Dilliard. I am a longtime Montana resident and retired from my position as Chief of the Public Water Supply Bureau at the Montana Department of Environmental Quality just over a year ago. This testimony is provided by me as an individual, and my views do not represent those of the Montana Department of Environmental Quality.

I appreciate the opportunity to present this testimony regarding why the entire water and sewer system at the State-owned buildings used by Montana Learning Center at Canyon Ferry Lake (referred to as the "Learning Center" in the rest of my testimony) needs to be replaced and why it is critical to retain the \$300,000 currently included in the Long-Range Building Program budget in HB5 to fund that replacement.

I currently serve on the Board of Directors of the Learning Center. When I first found out about the Learning Center and the exceptional experiential educational opportunities it provides to Montana students and teachers, it piqued my interest. The hands-on, boots-on-the-ground, collaborative experiences it provides are unique and extremely beneficial in Montana's current educational environment. The fact that the kids generally stay on-site at the Learning Center's campus on the shore of Canyon Ferry Lake – allowing them to enjoy recreational activities on the Lake while they learn about science, technology, engineering and math – makes it even more special. That is why I chose to become a Member of the Learning Center's Board of Directors.

A couple of years ago, the Learning Center started having drinking water quality problems and found bacteria in the water in the dorms and other buildings. After extensive research and study, it was determined that the problem was coming from the Learning Center's wastewater collection system. Essentially, the wastewater going down the drains was finding its way into the water supply used for drinking. The public health significance of this is undeniable.

The Learning Center's water and sewer system is the original system that was installed during the construction of the Canyon Ferry Dam over 70 years ago. The system uses clay pipes, which are generally considered to have a lifespan of 20 years, and certainly no more than 30 years. As Chief of the Public Water Supply Bureau at the Montana Department of Environmental Quality, I was involved with a situation that occurred right here in Helena on a

Details:

Bill: HB-5: Long-Range Building Appropriations 2021-02-04 08:30 AM - (H) JAS on Long-Range Planning

Position: Proponent

Representing an Entity/Another Person: No

Organization: N/A

Name: Julie Clay

Email: [julie.clay1@montana.edu](mailto:julie.clay1@montana.edu)

Phone: (406) 581-8561

City, State: Belgrade, MT

Written Statement: My testimony, which is attached here, is in support of MR-01 - Learning Center Civil Infrastructure Upgrades - Office of Public Instruction.

Files: MLC - Julie Clay Testimony.pdf

Testify via Zoom: Yes

Zoom Method: Computer

Written Testimony of Julie Clay  
To the House Joint Appropriations Subcommittee on Long-Range Planning  
67th Montana Legislature  
February 4, 2021

Chairman Hopkins, Vice-Chair Cuffe, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Julie Clay. I am a lifelong Montana resident and currently a project manager at Montana State University in the University Information Technology Department's Project Management Office. However, this testimony is provided by me as an individual, and my views do not necessarily represent those of Montana State University.

I appreciate the opportunity to present this testimony regarding the vital importance of retaining the \$300,000 currently included in the Long-Range Building Program budget in HB5 to fund the replacement of the entire water and sewer system at Montana Learning Center at Canyon Ferry Lake (referred to as the "Learning Center" in the rest of my testimony).

Over 30 years ago, I heard about a place out at Canyon Ferry Lake on the Missouri River where students of all ages could go to learn science hands-on, inside and outside of the classroom. I liked science and had a strong curiosity about the world around me. Luckily, my parents were big proponents of educational experiences. So, when I wanted to go to science camp for two weeks in the summer of 1990, they made it happen.

The two weeks I spent at Canyon Ferry Limnological Institute (the first of several precursors of the Learning Center) in 1990 were nothing short of amazing. We spent each day learning something new and different, such as water chemistry, topographical mapping and the biology of the surrounding ecosystem. We spent most of our downtime near or on the water and lived in our swimsuits most days. These moments are why I am so comfortable in a boat and love being on the water today.

During those two weeks, I discovered I wanted to come back the following summer and participate in the Learning Center's six-week research program. This was a huge decision because this was the summer before my senior year of high school. But something had changed in me when I was at camp for those two weeks in 1990. A spark had ignited!

The following summer, I returned to the Learning Center to begin my research project. I studied arsenic accumulation in the crayfish of the Missouri River. While my friends were sunning themselves and goofing off, I was in the basement of the camp's chemistry facility running experiments. My experiments were intended to prove the theory of bioaccumulation of toxic arsenic. My research went on well past my six weeks and continued through my senior year. Even though I did not prove my theory, I learned graduate level chemistry, proper handling of invertebrates and how to operate a spectrophotometer. With the coaching of two incredible mentors, Marilyn Alexander and Tom Pedersen, I wrote a professional research paper and

Details:

Bill: HB-5: Long-Range Building Appropriations 2021-02-04 08:30 AM - (H) JAS on Long-Range Planning

Position: Proponent

Representing an Entity/Another Person: No

Organization: N/A

Name: Kristi Borge

Email: [kristiknaub1@gmail.com](mailto:kristiknaub1@gmail.com)

Phone: (406) 580-8464

City, State: Polaris, MT

Written Statement: My testimony, which is attached here, is in support of MR-01 - Learning Center Civil Infrastructure Upgrades - Office of Public Instruction.

Files: MLC - Kristi Borge Testimony.pdf Testify via Zoom: Yes Zoom Method: Computer

Written Testimony of Kristi Borge  
To the House Joint Appropriations Subcommittee on Long-Range Planning  
67th Montana Legislature  
February 4, 2021

Chairman Hopkins, Vice-Chair Cuffe, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Kristi Borge. I currently am a multi-grade teacher in a one-room schoolhouse in Polaris, Montana, and have been named the 2021 Montana Teacher of the Year. Additionally, I am an instructor for some of the summer youth programs offered by Montana Learning Center at Canyon Ferry Lake (referred to as the "Learning Center" in the rest of my testimony). The views expressed in this testimony represent my individual opinions and do not necessarily reflect the views of the school district for which I work.

I am thankful for the opportunity to present this testimony regarding the vital importance of retaining the \$300,000 currently included in the Long-Range Building Program budget in HB5 to fund the replacement of the entire water and sewer system at the Learning Center.

I first became acquainted with the Learning Center and all it has to offer while attending its Springtime in the Rockies professional development program in April of 2015. Over the course of the workshops, I was able to stay in the facility, collaborate with other educators from across the state, and deepen my knowledge of science instruction. The skills, partnerships, and relationships with other educators that I developed during that program remain important to my current classroom practices, and I have admired the unique and meaningful programs that the Learning Center has offered to Montana teachers since then.

I first began teaching science camps at the Learning Center in the summer of 2015. Ryan Hannahoe, the Learning Center's Executive Director, and I were former colleagues at Monforton Middle School in Bozeman, and I was thrilled when he offered me the opportunity to spend a few weeks designing my own thematic units as a summer science camp instructor. No other setting is as ideal as the shores of Canyon Ferry Lake for creating authentic learning experiences for Montana students. In my years as an instructor at the Learning Center, my campers and I have gone on nature hikes in the Lewis and Clark National Forest, collected

Details:

Bill: HB-5: Long-Range Building Appropriations 2021-02-04 08:30 AM - (H) JAS on Long-Range Planning

Position: Proponent

Representing an Entity/Another Person: No

Organization: N/A

Name: Tom Pedersen

Email: [tompedersen69@hotmail.com](mailto:tompedersen69@hotmail.com)

Phone: (406) 461-2349

City, State: Helena, MT

Written Statement: My testimony, which is attached here, is in support of MR-01 - Learning Center Civil Infrastructure Upgrades - Office of Public Instruction.

Files: MLC - Tom Pedersen Testimony.pdf Testify via Zoom: Yes Zoom Method: Computer

Written Testimony of Tom Pedersen  
To the House Joint Appropriations Subcommittee on Long-Range Planning  
67th Montana Legislature  
February 4, 2021

Chairman Hopkins, Vice-Chair Cuffe, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Tom Pedersen. I am a longtime resident of Helena and I am here to testify in favor of retaining the \$300,000 currently included in the Long-Range Building Program budget in HB5 to fund the replacement of the water and sewer system in the State-owned buildings on the campus of Montana Learning Center at Canyon Ferry Lake (referred to as the "Learning Center" in the rest of my testimony).

I am retired after working for 39 years as a teacher and coach at Capital High School here in Helena. I have had the honor of being a Montana Biology Teacher of the Year, the 2016 Helena Teacher of the Year and the 2012 Montana Teacher of the Year.

I owe much of my career success to the Learning Center. I count myself as fortunate to have been asked to teach at the Learning Center shortly after its creation by two Helena science teachers in 1984. I taught several summer youth programs, as well as college credit courses for teachers under the auspices of the University of Montana (UM) and Montana State University (MSU). We used nature as a classroom and did more lab science in one summer than was normally done in an entire regular school year.

I also oversaw the Learning Center's biological research program for 17 summers. Under that program, highly motivated high school students conducted original, academic biological research over a seven-week period on a wide variety of topics. These young scientists prepared and submitted papers about their research, and also gave presentations about their research, to various national academic science organizations and at various national student science competitions, such as the Academy of Sciences, Science Symposium, Science Fairs and the Westinghouse Science Talent Search. Over the years, I was privileged to be able to travel with these young scientists to various cities, including Salt Lake City, New Orleans, San Francisco, and Miami, and to institutions of higher education, including West Point, MSU and UM. During the time I oversaw this program, these students won awards at the state, national and even international levels.

The Learning Center has been, and continues to be, a phenomenal incubator for developing students' wonder, creativity, critical thinking, hard work, and perseverance. Teaching at the Learning Center during the summers made me a much better teacher overall, and it gave these young scientists a tremendous start in their future science education and careers. Many of these students went into various science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields, and became scientists, school teachers, college and university professors, medical professionals, conservation specialists, and other STEM professionals.

In 1998, the two Helena science teachers who founded the Learning Center and the then Supervisor of the Helena National Forest developed and began the Youth Forest Monitoring Program (YFMP). While the YFMP is formally housed at, and primarily funded through, the Montana Discovery Foundation, the Learning Center has been an active partner in the YFMP since its inception. The program gives interested high school students a summer stipend to monitor and report on the water quality, soils, invasive species and wildlife in the Helena National Forest. I have been involved with the YFMP as a