EXHIBIT 1
DATE 4/6/09
SB 25

MONTANA UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

Sheila M. Stearns
Commissioner of Higher Education

February 25, 2009

Senator Jim Peterson
State of Montana Senate
Capitol Building
Helena, MT 59601

Dear Senator Peterson,

I respectfully request that a revised fiscal note associated with Senate Joint Resolution 25 - Urge study of rural-urban issues by the Montana University System, be requested to better reflect the capabilities of the Montana University System to carry out the proposed study in the 2009-2011 biennium.

I've spoken to the presidents of the University of Montana and Montana State University regarding their institutions' abilities to help carry forth this study. We've agreed that the most feasible approach in this next biennium is to conduct a small pilot study reflecting one or two of the primary attributes contained within this bill. As a result, the fiscal note associated with this bill should be reduced to a total cost of up to $20,000 during the biennium.

Please contact Mick Robinson, Deputy Commissioner for Fiscal Affairs, in my office if you have any questions or need more detail. His direct line is 444-0319.

Sincerely,

Sheila

Sheila M. Stearns
Commissioner of Higher Education

Cc: President George Dennison
President Geoff Gamble

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