From:	Elizabeth Williamson
To:	OPI Waivers
Cc:	Watson, Robert
Subject:	Support for the No Double Testing Waiver
Date:	Tuesday, October 01, 2013 11:30:28 AM

To whom it may concern,

My name is Elizabeth Williamson, I am a Trustee with the Bozeman Public Schools. I am writing in full support of the waiver request to the U.S. Department of Education from Superintendent Denise Juneau to allow Montana students to participate in the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) field test in the spring of 2014.

The approved waiver would permit students to take the new online assessment rather than the Montana Criterion Referenced Test (CRT). I believe in Common Core Standards and Common Core testing. I am very concerned with scenarios of "over-testing" during this transition and am in full support of transitioning to the Smarter Balanced Assessment. In summary, eliminating the requirement for the CRT would provide the following benefits to education in Montana:

1 Add instructional time for students by eliminating double testing of students;

2. Test computer hardware and network infrastructure to determine gaps and needs;

3. Provide professional development for teachers as they review the delivery, content, vocabulary, and structure of the SBAC assessment;

4. Provide a more effective and efficient transition to the 2014-2015 assessment; and

5. Students will be assessed on the standards being taught in Montana classrooms.

Best regards,

Elizabeth Williamson

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Elizabeth R. Williamson
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