From:	j cohenour
To:	OPI Waivers
Subject:	Assistant Sec of Education
Date:	Tuesday, October 01, 2013 2:22:49 PM

Assistant Secretary Deborah S. Delisle,
Washington DC

Dear Ms Delisle,
The OPI has proposed to field test the assessments related to the Smarter Balanced Achievement Consortium reading/language arts and mathematics content areas aligned to rigorous college- and career-ready standards in the spring of the 2013-14 year. Their proposal includes the desire to test all students continuing to take the current Science assessment in grades 4, 8, and 10 and the CRT Alternative assessment for qualifying students with disabilities.

We believe this is good for the students, teachers, and our schools in Montana as it will maximize instructional time in our classrooms this school year as well as provide an important opportunity for schools to assess their computer hardware and network infrastructure to identify and respond to gaps and needs. Further we believe this action will offer a critical professional development opportunity for teachers as they review the delivery, content, vocabulary, and structure of the SBAC assessment in preparation for the official rollout of those assessments in 2015. Also this move will afford the most effective and efficient transition to the 2014-15 assessment; and equally important students will be assessed on the standards being taught in the Montana classrooms today.

We hope that you will give the OPI proposal your serious consideration in a timely manner as possible as Superintendent Judeau has shared her intent with education leaders around the state and we are awaiting your decision regarding this request.

Respectfully,
Joe Cohenour
Trustee, Helena Public Schools
Director, Montana School Boards Association
Chair, AA Caucus of Schools

Sent from my iPad