From: Rhonda Long
To: OPI Waivers
Date: Tuesday, October 01, 2013 8:58:44 AM

I am writing to support the waiver request made by Superintendent Denise Juneau to the U.S. Department of Education. The waiver asks that we allow Montana students to participate in the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) field test in the spring of 2014. If the waiver is approved it would enable students to take the new online assessment rather than the Montana Criterion Referenced Test (CRT). By eliminating the requirement for the CRT, the following benefits to education in Montana would happen: additional instruction time would be given to students since they would be only tested once, the computer hardware and network infrastructure would be tested, the transition to Common Core Standards and assessment would be smoother, and the students would be tested on the standards being taught in our Montana classrooms.

Sincerely,

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