UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY

DEC 14 2006

Honorable Linda McCulloch
Superintendent of Public Instruction
Montana Office of Public Instruction
1227 11th Avenue
Helena, MT 59620-2501

Dear Superintendent McCulloch:

On July 7, 2006, the Montana Department of Education (MDE) submitted its revised State highly qualified teacher (HQT) plan. The peer reviewers found deficiencies in the original plan, and the Department asked that it be revised and re-submitted. We received the revision on October 6, 2006.

Department of Education staff reviewed the revised plan. In general, the reviewers were pleased with the plan, finding only a few remaining deficiencies. To resolve outstanding questions raised in the internal review, Department Program Officer Margaret Miles had discussions with Linda Peterson and Nancy Coopersmith from the MDE. As a result of the discussions, MDE made an additional submission to the Department on November 2, 2006.

In the judgment of the Department, the revised plan submitted on November 2 meets all six requirements and is now approved. I would like to congratulate you and your staff for this excellent work. We recognize the substantial challenge it has been to prepare this plan, and we are encouraged that you were able to submit a complete and comprehensive plan.

We will post the November 2 revision of the plan on the Department's Web site in place of the plan that is currently posted. We look forward to our continued work together, including routine monitoring to ensure that your State implements the activities described in the plan to meet the HQT goal in 2006-07 and beyond, for the benefit of all students in Montana. If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact Robert Stonehill (202-260-9737), or robert.stonehill@ed.gov), or Margaret Miles (202-260-2531), or margaret.miles@ed.gov).

Sincerely,

Henry L. Johnson

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