

Bill: HB-2: General Appropriations Act 2021-01-25 09:00 AM - (H) JAS on Education

Position: Proponent

Representing an Entity/Another Person: Yes

Organization: member of the MAES Advisory board

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Written Statement: I am asking for a hold-even budget for MAES with present law adjustments, as most of it is invested on personal and any budget reductions would mean cutting positions. I would also ask for one-time only funding for the seed lab and the wool lab. Also on the long-range building request that the 5 new labs (instrumentation and chemistry labs) are needed at the 5 research centers and horticulture research building at WARC, and a new wool lab at Bozeman. (The total LRBP request is for \$11 M from state and authority to raise \$1.3 M). Please remember that MAES is the research arm of Montana agriculture, the number one industry in the state. And from a personal note, I have provided plot space on my farm for Dr. Weaver to do research on the Wheat Stem Sawfly, a horrendous problem for Montana wheat growers, and we need that research to continue.