

September 16-17, 2015

**ITEM 168-2003-R0915**

**Request for Authorization to Confer the Title of Professor Emeritus of Economics upon Myles J.**

**Watts**

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**THAT**

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Dr. Myles J. Watts from the faculty of Montana State University, the Board of Regents wishes to express its appreciation for his service to the University, the Montana University System and the people of the state of Montana.

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**EXPLANATION**

After completing his Ph.D. in Economics at the University of Nebraska in 1978, Dr. Watts joined the Department of Agricultural Economics and Economics (DAEE) as an Assistant Professor. In addition to his research and teaching responsibilities for MSU, Professor Watts served as Department Head of the DAEE for 16 years. He also served on dozens of department, college, and university-level committees during his career. He also serves Montana and the US more broadly through his work on the Farmer Mac Board of Directors.

Professor Watts is a widely published author and speaker on many economics issues, holding particular expertise on Montana's tax system, risk management, financial regulation, and public lands use. He has shared his expertise on this topic widely, presenting outreach education sessions 35-50 times per year to nonacademic community groups, Montana Legislative committees, and other stakeholders.

Dr. Watts has written dozens of articles for economics journals and magazines and has delivered hundreds of presentations of his work. A short sampling of his recent publications illustrates relevancy of his research: "Water Degradation Implications When Whole-farm Irrigation Water is Binding" (2014), "The SURE Program and Incentives for Crop Insurance Participation (2012); "New Standing Disaster Program: An Invitation to Moral Hazard" (2010); "The Economics of Production" (2009); " Genetic Selection in the Beef Industry: Are Feeder Cattle Producers Compensated for Improving Carcass Quality" (2008); and "Are Crop Yields Normally Distributed?: A Reexamination" (2003). Professor Watts' recent public presentations have covered a wide range of topics, including Grazing policy on federal lands use; The Value of EPDs; Animal Disease Insurance; Implications of Changing Demographics in Montana; Montana's Tax Policy and Spending Policy; and Agricultural Credit.

Dr. Watts' excellence in research is matched by his outstanding teaching. He has taught courses at all levels, ranging from Introductory Economics to Agricultural Finance, to Farm and Ranch Management, to Financial Engineering.

In summary, Myles Watts has served Montana State University well by combining his excellent knowledge of Economics with his skills in research and teaching as a means to increase understanding of critical issues and to communicate his unique knowledge to stakeholders in Montana. His work ranges from the local to the national and international, and he continues to be actively involved in communicating his knowledge. Professor Watts is an outstanding candidate for emeritus status.

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**ATTACHMENTS**

No Attachments