

May 17-18, 2023

ITEM 206-2014-R0523**Request for Authorization to Construct a New MSU Wool Lab Facility; Montana State University**

THAT

Consistent with MCA 18-2-102, and BOR Policy 1003.7, the Board of Regents authorizes Montana State University to expend up to \$10,700,000 for the construction of a new MSU Wool Lab.

EXPLANATION

1. MSU received \$11,000,000 of Long-Range Building Program, Capital Development (LRBP CD) funding and authority for construction of the MSU Wool Lab and MAES Research Facilities in House Bill 14 of the 67th Legislature Session, \$5,000,000 of which is allocated specifically to the Wool Lab.
2. MSU received \$1,300,000 of authority-only for construction of the MSU Wool Lab and MAES Research Facilities in House Bill 14 of the 67th Legislative Session, \$1, 000,000 of which is allocated to the Wool Lab.
3. MSU received \$4,700,000 of additional LRBP CD funding and authority for construction of the MSU Wool Lab in House Bill 5 of the 68th Legislative Session to account for inflation and increasing material costs related to the project.
4. The Wool Lab has been providing critical wool quality testing services to wool growers from Montana and across the country for over 75 years and has outgrown its current space while processing approximately 15,000 samples per year.
5. The MSU Wool Lab is one of only two university wool labs in the country with facilities to conduct testing, teaching, and research required by the industry. There are no commercial wool labs left in the United States.
6. The Wool Lab provides substantial outreach services to Montana wool growers and conducts research that improves wool quality, wool yields, and therefore profitability across the industry.
7. The new Wool Lab facility will provide modern laboratory and teaching space to better meet the growing demands of testing, offer instruction to students, and create new research opportunities.
8. To provide collaborative research opportunities and improve construction cost efficiencies, the Wool Lab will be colocated in a shared "Combined State Laboratory" building with the Montana Department of Livestock's Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory and the Montana Department of Agriculture's Analytical Laboratory.
9. The combined facility will be constructed along South 19th Avenue to provide ease of access to the agricultural communities served by all three labs.
10. This work will be paid for using state appropriations and private donations.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment #1: Project Details (BOR Policy 1003.7)