

ITEM 120-2802-R0903

## APPENDIX 5

### Letters of Support

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY  
WORKFORCE SERVICES DIVISION



JUDY MARTZ, GOVERNOR

PO BOX 1728

STATE OF MONTANA

(406) 444-3998

HELENA, MONTANA 59624-1728

August 20, 2003

Mr. Gregory Kegel, Dean  
College of Technical Sciences – MSU Northern  
PO Box 7751  
Havre, MT 59501

Dear Mr. Kegel:

I have been informed that the MSU-Northern Plumbing Advisory Board will be seeking approval from the Board of Regents in the near future to develop an Associates of Applied Science degree in Plumbing Technology.

As the Supervisor for the Montana Apprenticeship and Training Program, Montana Department of Labor and Industry, I totally support your efforts and the direction of MSU-Northern in this endeavor.

Currently, the technical education system in Montana cannot offer the opportunity to Montana youth to study in the pipe and heating/cooling occupations. At this point in time, graduating Montana high school students must leave the state if they want to pursue an Associates Degree in those fields. Furthermore, Montana employers spent an estimated \$125,000.00 last fiscal year to an out of state college for apprenticeship correspondence education for Montana apprentices, which includes those working in the pipe trades.

Although registered apprenticeship provides for both educational and job opportunities in the mentioned occupations, those positions are in high demand and entry is very competitive. The proposed technical degree by MSU- Northern would greatly enhance the ability for those graduating students to receive apprenticeship credit and would provide them a higher level of employ-ability due their job ready skills and education.

The Montana Apprenticeship and Training supports your proposal and you have our guarantee for any cooperation and technical assistance that we may lend, that will help with the success of this project.

My Best Wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark S. Maki".

Mark S. Maki, Supervisor  
Apprenticeship and Training Program  
Montana Department of Labor and Industry



MONTANA Apprenticeship  
Training Program

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY  
WORKFORCE SERVICES DIVISION



JUDY MARTZ, GOVERNOR

PO BOX 1728

STATE OF MONTANA

(406) 444-3998

HELENA, MONTANA 59624-1728

June 11, 2003

Board of Plumbers  
Business & Occupational Licensing  
Department of Labor and Industry

Dear Board Members:

The Apprenticeship & Training Program has been working in cooperation with Mr. Bob Nault and Montana State University - Northern, in the development of a proposed Plumbing Technology AAS degree. This project would be a positive benefit to Montana students that plan to enter the plumbing industry and seek apprenticeship sponsors, prepared for employment in the plumbing and pipe trades occupations. This project can also provide a needed link between the Apprenticeship & Training Program, Montana registered apprenticeship employers and Higher Education in Montana.

The Apprenticeship and Training Program supports this project and will lend any possible assistance to ensure its success.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely Yours,

Mark S. Maki, Supervisor  
Apprenticeship and Training Program  
Department of Labor and Industry

Post-it* Fax Note	7671	Date	8-21-03 6-16-03	# of pages	1
To	Gregg Kegeles	From	BOB NAULT		
Co./Dept.	Mach Tech.	Co.			
Phone #		Phone #	265-9213		
Fax #	265-3744	Fax #	265-9460		



## Greg Kegel

---

**From:** John Fawcett [jfawcett@mdmsupply.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 22, 2003 9:25 AM  
**To:** kegel@msun.edu  
**Cc:** Lou Dumas  
**Subject:** Support for Associate Plumbing Degree

Montana Board of Regents  
MSU Northern  
Attn: Greg Kegel

I would like to offer my support for the proposed two year accociate degee in plumbing. As a master plumber in the state of Montana, I have been concerned for a number of years about the shortage of trained people entering the plumbing profession. I firmly believe that a well-trained plumber is vital to the health of all communities and that the proposed program will be a positive move forward in that effort.

I sincerely hope that this program will become a reality and please do not hesitate to let me know if I can be of assistance in any way.

Respectfully Submitted  
John Fawcett  
Mater License # 948



Governor Judy Martz

*Montana*

**Department of Labor and Industry**

**Business Standards Division**

*Roger*

**BOARD OF PLUMBERS**  
**PHONE: (406) 841-2367 FAX: (406) 841-2309**

August 21, 2003

MSU Northern  
Alex Capdeville, Chancellor  
PO Box 7751  
Havre MT 59501

Dear Chancellor Capdeville,

The Montana Board of Plumbers reviewed an April 16, 2003 letter from Bob Nault regarding the possibility of offering a plumbing education program at Montana State University - Northern. The board does support the concept of having a plumbing program offered through Montana State University - Northern. Please remember that the board may, in its sole discretion, give appropriate credit for curriculum offered towards completion of the 5-year apprenticeship requirement.

If there are additional questions please do not hesitate to contact this office.

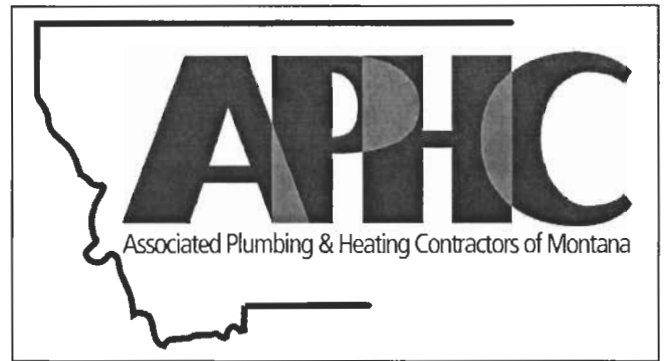
Sincerely,

*Todd D. Boucher*  
Todd Boucher  
Executive Officer

AUG 25 2003

Cc: Board of Regents  
Bob Nault

7 N. Olive  
Helena, MT 59601  
406-443-8514 fax 206-337-1651 cell 406-431-2176  
e-mail: carl@mt.net



August 20, 2003

Montana Board of Regents

Helena, MT 59624

Dear Board of Regents

The Associated Plumbing and Heating Contractors of Montana (APHC) fully endorse the creation of a plumbing associate degree at Montana State University – Northern. APHC has long recognized the need for a school in Montana to teach the basics of plumbing. APHC thanks MSU-Northern and Bob Nault for their vision and efforts to develop an excellent program here in Montana.

Several APHC members have volunteered to support MSU-Northern because they see the future benefits to their businesses. They are excited to have a school in Montana that will offer 2 years of basic plumbing courses that will be the foundation for a rewarding plumbing career.

APHC hopes the Board of Regents will unanimously approve the new plumbing associate degree for MSU-Northern at your September 2003 Board meeting.

Best regards,

Carl Schweitzer

APHC Executive Director

# MDM SUPPLY, INC

P.O. Box 6018  
Helena, Montana 59604-6018

August 21, 2003

Montana Board of Regents  
% Greg Kegel  
MSU Northern

Dear Sirs / Madam

I'm writing this letter in support of the proposed two year associate degree in plumbing from MSU Northern. MDM Supply is a privately held wholesale distribution company engaged in the business of distributing plumbing, heating, pipe, valves and fitting throughout Montana.

Montana needs qualified trained people in the plumbing trade to keep people and the revenue they produce in Montana. Being directly connected to the plumbing industry I see this school as an opportunity for Montana to train Montana people for jobs that will pay a good wage and keep our young people in Montana. I field at least one call a week from plumbing shops in Montana asking if I know of any qualified people looking for work. We would also give special consideration for employment at MDM Supply to someone who has an associate degree in plumbing from MSU Northern.

MDM Supply will definitely support the associate degree from MSU in the plumbing field.

Sincerely,

Lou Dumas  
President  
MDM Supply, Inc.



August 19, 2003

MSU-Northern  
College of Technical Sciences  
Attn. Greg Kegel, Dean  
PO Box 7751  
Havre, Montana 59501

RE: Proposed Plumbing Curriculum

I am writing to express my strong support for your proposed Associate Degree of Applied Science in Plumbing. As you know, I toured your facility last week and was impressed with your facility. I see no problems in setting up this program at your location.

I am the president, and the Montana licensed master plumber of record, for Garden City Plumbing in Missoula. We are a plumbing and heating contractor currently employing 21 journeyman and 7 apprentice plumbers. We are constantly recruiting young men and women to work for us. However, we find it very difficult to find people with sufficient knowledge and training in our field. If we had the ability to hire properly trained Montana kids, for our company, we would do so!

I believe your proposed program would train Montana residents in a trade with a major shortage in skilled workers. Nationwide there is a shortage for skilled people working in the crafts. I am a member of a national organization of plumbing contractors. We meet periodically throughout the year. A common theme echoes through most every meeting: the lack of skilled craftsmen. I think the State is long overdue in the institution of a school for our trade.

I firmly believe Montana contractors would hire a majority of the graduates from your course. I look forward to your program and look forward to helping in any way I can! Thank you for your hard work on this program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Bill Schaff'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Bill Schaff  
President





**BOZEMAN PLUMBING & HEATING, INC.**  
**803 NORTH WALLACE**  
**PO BOX 4270**  
**BOZEMAN, MONTANA 59772-4270**  
**(406) 587-0378 (FAX) 585-8915**

---

August 19, 2003

To the Montana Board of Regents

Re: MSU Northern Plumbing Program

To the Montana Board of Regents, I would like to take this opportunity to ask you to support the proposed Plumbing Program. There are so many good reasons to support this program, but let me name a few.

- By your support we can keep our young workers in the state.
- By your support we will be teaching these young people a skilled trade, which pays well.
- By your support we will keep a good tax base in the state.

I have been involved with this industry for over 20 years. In that time I have completed an apprentice program. I have worked as a Journeyman licensed plumber. For the last 14 years I have worked as a Master plumber. For the last five years I have owned a medium sized Plumbing shop. We have approximately 22 employees with an estimated payroll this year of close to \$450,000.00.

Since the mid seventies we have had approximately 12 apprentice applicants complete the apprentice program, with a 100% pass rate for the journeyman test. By starting this program I would defiantly look closely to offering those young people a job, over someone who had zero experience.

Please give every consideration to this worthwhile program. It would benefit a great many people in our great state.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely

Chris "Boo" White  
President and Owner  
Bozeman Plumbing and Heating, Inc.



Governor Judy Martz

*Montana*

**Department of Labor and Industry**

**Business Standards Division**

ITEM 120-2802-R0903 Attachment

**BOARD OF PLUMBERS**

**PHONE: (406) 841-2367 FAX: (406) 841-2309**

August 21, 2003

MSU Northern  
Alex Capdeville, Chancellor  
PO Box 7751  
Havre MT 59501

Dear Chancellor Capdeville,

The Montana Board of Plumbers reviewed an April 16, 2003 letter from Bob Nault regarding the possibility of offering a plumbing education program at Montana State University - Northern. The board does support the concept of having a plumbing program offered through Montana State University - Northern. Please remember that the board may, in its sole discretion, give appropriate credit for curriculum offered towards completion of the 5-year apprenticeship requirement.

If there are additional questions please do not hesitate to contact this office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Todd D. Boucher".

Todd Boucher  
Executive Officer

Cc: Board of Regents  
Bob Nault