

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE 52nd LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Call to Order: By SENATOR CHET BLAYLOCK, on February 18, 1991,
at 3:45 P. M.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Chet Blaylock, Chairman (D)
Harry Fritz, Vice Chairman (D)
Robert Brown (R)
Bill Farrell (R)
H.W. Hammond (R)
Dennis Nathe (R)
Dick Pinsoneault (D)
Mignon Waterman (D)
Bill Yellowtail (D)

Staff Present: Eddy McClure (Legislative Council).

Please Note: These are summary minutes. Testimony and
discussion are paraphrased and condensed.

HEARING ON SB 389

Presentation and Opening Statement by Sponsor:

Senator Van Valkenburg presented SB 389, an act to establish legislative audit of school organizations receiving majority of funds from government. The bill is specifically introduced to carry out one of the agreements that was entered into between Senator Van Valkenburg and the Montana High School Association during the middle of the 1989 session. Exhibit 1.

Opponents:

Bruce Moerer, Montana School Board Association testified in opposition to SB 389. He recalled that last session there was some dispute with the Montana High School Association regarding a bill introduced concerning the open meeting law. The bill was amended so it would apply to the regulatory bodies and the only one that it applied to was the Montana High School Association. since none of the other associations are regulatory in nature.

The speaker said that the way MSBA looks at this bill is that it says our board of 16 trustees from around the state that run our organization are not necessarily accountable and they object to being singled out. MSBA wouldn't object if this bill covered all such organizations that received federal funds but opposes the bill as it is drafted now. If the bill is written to cover all organizations that receive public funds, MSBA probably wouldn't oppose the bill.

Questions From Committee Members:

Senator Waterman asked why SB 389 doesn't include League of Cities and Towns and other organizations.

Senators Pinsoneault and Hammond questioned if the legislative auditor could direct an audit. In response Senator Van Valkenburg said that the audit would be by private auditors in compliance with conditions that the legislative auditor sets.

Senator Waterman asked if there is a fiscal note on SB 389 and the answer is yes. The cost of the audits would be approximately \$2000-2500 per audit with a maximum of five audits paid for by the organization.

Closing by Sponsor:

Senator Van Valkenburg closed hearing, urging support of SB 389.

HEARING ON SB 320

Presentation and Opening Statement by Sponsor:

Senator Harry Fritz presented SB 320 which would allow the Board of Regents of the university system to designate the campus of the University of Montana as a state arboretum.

Proponents' Testimony:

Mark Behan, Professor of Botany, University of Montana.
Exhibit 2.

Sheila Stearns, Legislative Liason to the University of Montana, testified in support of SB 320.

Patrick O'Leary representing Associated Students, University of Montana, testified in support of SB 320.

Questions From Committee Members:

Senator Hammond asked if this designation would deny other schools from establishing a state arboretum. He was told that other schools may establish an arboretum but the one at the University of Montana would be designated the state arboretum.

Senator Hammond asked if funds would be required for this project and was told that the university has the funds and resources that they need for the arboretum.

HEARING ON SJR 17

Presentation and Opening Statement by Sponsor:

Senator Blaylock, Senate District 43, presented SJR 17, an act which would designate square dancing as the Montana folk dance. The speaker said that square dancing had been an important part of Montana history as well as national. He said that this type of dancing was done on the prairie as settlers moved west and that there are a great many people in Montana today who belong to square dance clubs.

Proponents' Testimony:

Ray Harris, Laurel, in support of SJR 17. He thanked the committee for their time. He said that there are about 12 states that have now designated square dance as their state folk dance. He recognized persons in the audience representing Helena square dance clubs.

Jerry Beryl, Helena square dancer.

Gerald Knutsen, President of Montana State Square and Round Dancers. He spoke of square dancing as being a family activity steeped in traditions of our nation.

Questions From Committee Members:

Senator Pinsoneault asked where square dancing originated. He was told that there was square dancing on the Mayflower; it was originally folk dancing (contra or line) that developed into square dancing. Foreign countries and military bases have square dancing. Some music being used today is recorded overseas.

Senator Fritz asked if Native Americans square danced and if they would have prior claim to the official Montana folk dance. He was told that Native Americans did a form of round dancing. There were (and still are) contests for best individual dancers. Senator Blaylock said that he felt the official Montana folk dance should include Native American dancing.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SJR 17

Motion and Vote:

SENATOR PINSONEAULT MOVED SJR 17 DO PASS. Unanimous. MOTION CARRIED.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 320

Motion and Vote:

SENATOR FRITZ MOVED that SB 320 BE AMENDED to strike "the" and insert "a" in Line 10 so that it would read "campus of University of Montana is a state arboretum". Unanimous vote DO NOT PASS. AMENDMENT NOT ADOPTED.

SENATOR FRITZ MOVED SB 320 DO PASS. Unanimous. MOTION CARRIED.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 389

Motion and Vote:

SENATOR FARRELL MOVED SB 389 DO PASS. Vote was Seven aye; Two no. (Senators Hammond and Nathe) MOTION CARRIED.

Discussion regarding Pryor School:

Senator Yellowtail reported to the committee a financial situation currently existing for Pryor School which is located in his district. He said that Pryor school had requested financial help in order to avoid closure. The senator asked for the committee's guidance. He said that the Pryor School Board plans to cut operations to a minimum and seek support from the State Board of Investments.

Chip Erdman apologized for the late date of bringing this issue to the committee's attention. He said that OPI had been working with the Pryor School Board and the Board of Investments trying to work out a solution for the school without going to the Legislature; however, the Board of Investments feels that it is unable to help Pryor School under the current statute (Statute 28-9-471) which limits loan expenditures to the purchase of vehicles or making capital expenditures. The Board of Investments feels it could make a short term (5 year) loan to the Pryor School but the school would be limited and would not be able to use the money for general operating purposes under present law.

The Board of Investments feels this statute represents too narrow a scope to allow them to consider lending Pryor the money. Mr. Erdman reported to the committee that the Pryor School had been relatively healthy financially but had suffered a loss because of a bad administration. The situation is presently being investigated by the FBI and will soon be coming before a federal grand jury in Billings. The school has no reserves and very little tax base. They rely on 874 funds and don't have the ability to fund themselves between payments.

Members of The Board of Investments said they would be willing to testify in favor of the change in legislation which would allow funds to be used for purposes other than buying vehicles or capital expenditures. They think that flexibility is valuable not only in this case but others.

Senator Blaylock said about 3 years ago he was approached by a former student of his who teaches at the Pryor School. She informed him of the situation at Pryor. He said that he went to the Department of Commerce and forced an audit of the school records. Rick Bartos helped them. Pryor School now has a new administrative staff and honest, dedicated people who are doing everything they can to keep their school open.

Chip Erdman said that the school is seeking \$125,000 line of credit over a five years period of time.

Senator Nathe asked how the school planned to repay the loan. He was told that it would either be a revenue situation or tax anticipation note. The Board of Investments Loan document requires either the tax proceeds or the 874 funds be pledged. They lock it down tight before they grant the loan.

Senator Pinsoneault asked if the school involved high school and elementary. He was told yes. (150 students)

It was agreed that this proposal would have to be brought before the Senate in order to suspend rules and permit the Education Committee to request a bill to be introduced. If successful on the floor of the Senate, it would go to the Board of Investments and they would sell bonds to fund it. If not successful, it would have to start in the House as an appropriations bill. Committee agreed to bring this before the Senate.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 208

Discussion and Vote:

Senator Fritz said that he felt HB 208 should be tabled because it raised a much larger issue than elimination of the approval of the Department of Commerce for destruction of school records. He pointed out that HB 208 talks about "old, worthless records". He said that a records retention schedule is needed which would specify what kinds of records must be kept, what kinds can be destroyed and how long records must be kept before they are destroyed. He said that present guidelines in this state for records retention is not official but prepared by school business officers. (Two pages versus Kentucky's 125 page record retention guide). They need to be official and extended. Financial records are currently destroyed after five years but the Department of Commerce argues that those kinds of financial records should be kept for 7 years for purposes of audit and the unofficial guide says 8 years.

SENATOR FRITZ MOVED HB 208 be TABLED. Vote was unanimous.
MOTION CARRIED.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 287

SENATOR BROWN MOVED that SB 287 be amended, adopting Lines 1-6 with the exception of Subsection D. Vote was unanimous. MOTION CARRIED.

SENATOR Blaylock said that he felt "we are hanging this on the county superintendent. We are saying that they should know what is going on. I have talked to a lot of these good people and talked to them down in Yellowstone County. There is no way for a Home School group to really know what is going on in the other Home Schools. They don't know whether there is constant recess or if there is really an intensive educational program going on. I am not talking about philosophy. I don't care what the philosophy is. I am saying that there is no way of knowing if kids are learning because there is no authority and no one really does know.

I guess as a member of the State Legislature acting under the Constitution of the State of Montana which says that we are supposed to do certain things, it is of concern to me that homeschooling is so free and open. I am not sure, leaving it like this, as Senator Brown's motion would leave it that we have done the best that we should by all of the students of this state who are citizens of the state of Montana. That bothers me deeply".

Senator Hammond asked how the chairman felt the committee was doing something for these people by denying parental rights and responsibilities.

Senator Blaylock said that he didn't want to deny any parental rights and responsibilities. He said, "I am just saying that in all of our public school and any of the private religious schools, if they want to be accredited, they have to meet and do certain things".

These children who are in the Home Schools are citizens of this state and if their parents remain here, the children will be citizens all the way through. We are saying that their education needs no evaluation by anybody".

Senator Hammond said, "...but if they are going to come into the public school, they will be evaluated".

Senator Blaylock said at that point if a student is coming into the public schools, is tested at a seventh grade level and can't read at a first grade level, what can we say we have done for that child?

Senator Hammond said that he thought there are many students in the public schools who can't read or write. He went on to say that the reason for accreditation is to provide money. Schools are told that if they are not accredited, they will not be funded. The big thing has always been accreditation.

Senator Waterman: "Do you have any answer for my concern? I guess that I really have a concern about people who would keep their children home for less than noble reasons; maybe, to work or babysit. We have seen this in this district. How would you evaluate whether there was any instruction or learning going on in a case like this?"

Senator Brown: "I don't know if you can evaluate this but those who take this seriously..."

Senator Waterman: "I am no talking about those who take it seriously. What happens if one of the neighbors calls and says that they think this child is truant and the parents say that they are homeschooling. What can we do to get on top of that case? Can a county superintendent not require something? I guess that is why I am concerned. I think there should be some authority in this".

Senator Pinsoneault: "The solution would be if the homeschoolers could come forward with some sort of self policing program saying that they have a committee set up who is doing some sort of monitoring or patrol over those homeschoolers in the county or district. I have a real heart-rending letter in my file--I happen to know them personally--their children are 8, 9, and 10 years old. They have been homeschooled and cannot read. That, to me, is a crime. That could be going on. Home School people should come forward with some sort of program and a county superintendent could put her blessing on it.

Senator Farrell: There have been so many professional athletes who came out of public schools and went clear through college and can't read or write. You could make that same argument for our public school system. I really don't think this is an issue that we should be concerned with unless we are going to be concerned with it in our own public school system. I don't find many people worrying about the dropout kids as much as we are when this issue of homeschooling comes in. We have kids that drop out of school at 15 or 16 years old and we are not requiring schools to test them to see what their aptitude is. I really object to saying that you should test the Home Schools kids. If they want to go to a public school, then they could be tested and placed. I don't have any objection to that because we are accepting the problem if it is a problem. We have enough problems in our own public school system. Some of the benefits that I've seen in homeschooling far outweigh some of the benefits in public schools.

Senator Hammond also pointed out that homeschoolers are paying

taxes to support the public schools. He said that he was amazed that somebody hasn't come forth and said that their children aren't attending public schools and they shouldn't have to pay taxes into them but he said that he had never heard any of the homeschoolers even mention it.

Senator Brown said that even though I share some of the concerns of Senator Waterman, I don't think that any useful purpose will be served by demanding that home school students be tested by county superintendents or anyone else."

SENATOR BROWN MOVED to reinstate Subsection D in the amendment to SB 287. MOTION CARRIED. (Yellowtail, Waterman and Blaylock voted no).

SENATOR BROWN MOVED SB 287 do pass AS AMENDED. Unanimous. MOTION CARRIED. (Combined amendments No. 380834SC.SJI - attached to Standing Committee Report).

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment At: 5:30 P. M.


SENATOR CHET BLAYLOCK, Chairman


BETSY CLARK, Secretary

CB/bc

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

Page 1 of 1
February 19, 1991

MR. PRESIDENT:

We, your committee on Education and Cultural Resources having had under consideration Senate Bill No. 287 (first reading copy - white), respectfully report that Senate Bill No. 287 be amended and as so amended do pass:

1. Title, line 4.

Following: "TO"

Strike: "ESTABLISH"

Insert: "RECOGNIZE"

2. Page 1, line 11.

Following: "school."

Strike: "(1) Notwithstanding"

Insert: "Subject to"

3. Page 1, line 12.

Following: "parent"

Strike: "who instructs"

Insert: "has the authority to instruct"

4. Page 1, lines 13 and 14.

Following: "school"

Strike: "is the sole authority"

Following: "for"

Strike: remainder of line 13 through "regarding" on line 14

5. Page 1, line 15.

Strike: "(a)"

Insert: "(1)"

Renumber: subsequent subsections

6. Page 1, lines 20 through 24.

Strike: subsection (2) in its entirety

Signed: Chet Blaylock

Chet Blaylock, Chairman

1991 2-19-91
Amd. Coord.

CB 2-19
Sec. of Senate

10:05



Montana High School Association

1 South Dakota Avenue Helena, MT 59601 (406) 442-6010

February 20, 1989

Senator Fred Van Valkenburg
Montana Senate
Capitol Station
Helena, MT 59620

Dear Senator Van Valkenburg:

The Montana High School Association has opposed SB 403 because it places regulation of extracurricular activities under the Office of Public Instruction. We oppose the legislation because the bill will vest all regulation with the OPI and in so doing will remove local control over extracurricular activities and transform those activities from a privilege to an educational right as part of a basic education. If so transformed, the state would assume funding responsibility for those rights without the ability to collect fees for this regulation from either school districts or from students. Further, the ability of school districts to collect activity fees would also be compromised.

However while opposed to such transfer of regulation, certain reforms either set forth in the bill or voiced by legislators are not resisted by the MHSA and the MHSA is willing to implement those reforms in an effort to respond to the spirit of the legislation and the concerns of the legislators.

First, the MHSA has already adopted a policy of inviting public comment at its regular quarterly board meetings. The MHSA will continue to follow this policy and expand that policy to allow opportunity for public comment during its annual meeting, committee meetings and membership meetings. Public comment will be extended to assure the full consequences of proposed regulations are fully understood before a vote by the membership.

Second, MHSA acknowledges that it receives membership dues from individual school districts. The MHSA acknowledges these funds have a public character. The MHSA agrees to request the legislative auditor to conduct an appropriate audit of its membership dues income and expenditures of those funds. This cost of the audit will be the responsibility of the MHSA. The audit will be requested for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 1989. In the event the legislative auditor declines the invitation to audit such funds, the MHSA will support future legislation authorizing the legislative auditor to conduct such audits of the MHSA dues income and expenses. Until passage of such legislation, MHSA shall be subject to an audit consistent with GAAP including a detailed breakdown of revenue from membership dues and expenditures of those funds relating to the regulation of the extracurricular activities of the member schools.

Third, MHSA presently invites a representative from OPI to attend its meetings for advise, coordination and direction. While this invitation has not been regularly accepted in the past, the MHSA will request the OPI to have a designated individual attend all board meetings. Additionally, at its 1990 annual meeting, the MHSA will propose to its membership an amendment to its bylaws increasing its board to seven members, with two public members appointed one each by the Superintendent of Public Instruction and the Office of the Governor.

EXECUTIVE STAFF
Dan L. Freund
Executive Director
James C. Haugen
Assistant Executive Director
Bill Sprinkle
Assistant to the
Executive Director
BOARD OF CONTROL
Supt. Tony Tognetti, Pres.
Stevensville
Supt. Dale Zorn, Vice Pres.
Shelby
Supt. Tom Warwick
Ennis
Prin. Dwight Moose
Helena High
Margaret Basta
Lindsay
(Mont. School Boards Assoc.)

SENATE EDUCATION

EXHIBIT NO. 1

DATE 2-18-91


Senator Fred Van Valkenburg
February 20, 1989
Page Two

These reforms, we believe, address the real concerns which this legislature has identified, without subjecting the MHSA to direct regulation by the OPI and the consequences which, in our opinion, would be contrary to the best interests of the schools and the school children of Montana.

The MHSA respectfully requests that SB 403 be indefinitely postponed as these reforms are implemented.

Sincerely,

MONTANA HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION



Dan L. Freund
Executive Director

DLF/jls



University of Montana

SENATE EDUCATION

EXHIBIT NO. 2

DATE 2-18-91

BILL NO. SB 320

Division of Biological Sciences • Missoula, Montana 59812-1002 • (406) 243-5122 Fax (406) 243-4184

18 February 1991

Senate Education and Cultural Resource Committee
Montana State Capital
Helena, Montana

Re: Senate Bill 320 - Designation of the University of Montana campus
as the State Arboretum

An arboretum is a living laboratory or library of trees and shrubs, and as such requires extensive areas for cultivation and maintenance. University campuses provide this opportunity, and in our region the campuses of the University of Washington, Utah, and Idaho provide examples.

The functions of the arboretum proposed at the University of Montana are to:

1. Landscape Planning.

Work with the campus grounds department in the development of the general landscape plan for the campus. The arboretum should conform with general landscape architectural design for individual buildings, and yet introduce diversity in the selection of educationally significant native and exotic woody specimens.

2. Education and Public Service

The major role of the arboretum will be to educate students and the public on the proper use, identification, and cultural appreciation of woody plants. This role is currently being accomplished informally by using the campus as a laboratory for botany and forestry classes, and continuing education institutes for agencies such as the U. S. Forest Service. Establishment of an arboretum would expand this role by planting and organizing more educationally significant specimens, encouraging elementary and secondary school student use of the campus, as well as Montanans and tourists. This latter role would be aided by preparation of booklets describing the kinds, values, identifying characteristics and locations of specimens and perhaps making guided tours available for groups.

3. Research

Arboreta are often used as trial areas for the introduction of exotic species, and the success and progress of such introductions made available to the public, shade tree commissions, garden clubs, nurserymen, etc. The easy availability of specimens promotes student and faculty research in plant chemistry, diseases, and propagation.



Graduate
Degree
Programs

Biochemistry
Biological Sciences
(Teaching)
Botany
Microbiology
Wildlife Biology
Zoology



University of Montana

2-18-91
SB 320

Division of Biological Sciences • Missoula, Montana 59812-1002 • (406) 243-5122 Fax (406) 243-4184

February 15, 1991



Senate Committee for Education and Cultural Resources
Room 402
Capital Station
Helena, Montana



Honorable Members of the Committee:



Senate Bill 320 to establish the University of Montana as state Arboretum deserves full support. It would be useful to the University of Montana from both educational and public service viewpoints. It would be of benefit to the State Of Montana and the tourists who visit western Montana.



We rely on the campus collection of trees in teaching of Botany courses that deal with plant classification and the School of Forestry also uses the campus for courses in tree identification.

Official designation will encourage that new plantings be planned around native Montana species rather than exotic species.

Designation as an Arboretum will be attractive to the growing number of tourists interested in native plants. Interest in native plants is growing across America with many new local clubs being formed.

We see this as a good bill and recommend your positive consideration.

Respectfully,

Donald A. Jenni, Associate Dean
Division of Biological Sciences

Graduate
Degree
Programs

Biochemistry
Biological Sciences
(Teaching)

Botany
Microbiology
Wildlife Biology
Zoology



MONTANA NATURAL HISTORY CENTER

P.O. Box 2535 • Missoula, MT 59806 • (406) 728-4704

2-18-91
SB 320

Senate Committee for Education and Cultural Resources
Room 402
Capital Station
Helena, Montana

15 February 1991

Honorable Members of the Committee:

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 320 which proposes the designation of the University of Montana Campus as a state Arboretum. Such an arboretum would offer both the public and academic communities of Montana a significant teaching resource. The mission of the Montana Natural History Center is to provide Natural History education both to the general public and, principally, to the elementary and secondary schools in the State. I cannot emphasize enough what a considerable addition such an arboretum would make to our efforts, and to the efforts of all who seek to educate about the natural world.

The members of the Board of Directors strongly urges your positive consideration of Senate bill 320.

Respectfully,

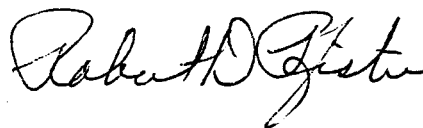
Robert A. Petty, President
Montana Natural History Center

University of Montana

2-18-91
SB ~~300~~ 301
School of Forestry / Montana Forest
& Conservation Experiment Station
Missoula, Montana 59812-1063
February 15, 1991
(406) 243-5521
FAX (406) 243-4510

To: Senate Education Committee

From: Sidney S. Frissell, Dean
Robert D. Pfister, Associate Director



Subject: Senate Bill 320 Testimony

Formal designation of a campus arboretum would be beneficial to the education program of the School of Forestry. Several classes regularly use the existing wide variety of trees for field identification and discussion of comparative features.

Formal designation would also lead to greater use by the Missoula community and help foster better University relationships with the community.

Formal designation would lead to greater use, protection and improvement of a valuable asset.

We recommend passing Senate Bill 320.



2/17/91

To the members of the Montana State Senate:

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 320 which would designate the University of Montana campus as a state Arboretum. The University has the requisites of a great arboretum in the diverse trees and shrubs found on its grounds. The Montana Native Plant Society (MNPS) is a non-profit organization of approximately 300 members, which was organized to preserve, conserve, and study the native vegetation of Montana and to educate the public to the values of this native flora. In conjunction with these goals, the Clark Fork Chapter of the MNPS uses the University campus as a demonstration area of Montana's trees. We are currently converting an area on campus into a native plant garden. In time, we hope to do this with other parts of the campus.

Apart from my connections with MNPS, I have been associated with the University for 9 years. I received Bachelor and Master's degrees in Botany here and am currently employed on campus as a botanical researcher in the School of Forestry. Almost constantly during the years, I have either been a student in classes, helped teach classes or have observed other classes and groups using the campus and its trees as a teaching laboratory. On many occasions I've been told by visitors that the UM campus is one of the nicest they've seen and that its trees are the major reason for their feelings.

In summary, I think the vegetation on the University of Montana campus is a state treasure. I feel strongly that it deserves the recognition you are considering giving it.

Thank You

Scott L. Miles

Scott L. Miles, President
Clark Fork Chapter,
Montana Native Plant Society
PO Box 8783
Missoula, MT 59807



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Intermountain
Research
Station

2-18-91
SB 320
P.O. Box 8089
Missoula, MT 59807

Reply to: 6300

Date: January 15, 1991

Chairman, Senate Education
and Cultural Resources Committee
Montana Senate
Helena, Montana

Dear Chairman:

This letter is written in support of Senate Bill 220 designating the University of Montana Campus as an arboretum.

The current assemblage of trees and shrubs on the University of Montana Campus has been used as an education and teaching resource for courses in tree identification and Montana forest habitat-types in connection with the School of Forestry and Continuing Education Program. Representation of the native trees of Montana and adjacent Northern Rocky Mountain areas is far from adequate and instructors have had to make do with what was available. Living trees are far superior for as aids for teaching and training in comparison to slides, photographs, or specimens.

An arboretum constitutes a valuable resource of long standing for both education and research purposes and also for heightened public awareness and appreciation for the improvements that trees contribute to our environment. Expanding and improving the assemblage of living trees on the University of Montana Campus enhance both the University's instruction capability and opportunities for public service with little if any added expense.

Sincerely,

Peter F. Stickney
Associate Plant Ecologist
Wildlife Habitat Research Work Unit



2-18-91
SB 320



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Intermountain
Research
Station

P.O. Box 8089
Missoula, MT 59807

Reply to: 6300

Date: February 15, 1991

Chairman, Montana Senate Education and Cultural Resources Committee
State Capitol
Helena, MT 59620

Subject: SB320-Designation of University of Montana Campus as a State Arboretum

Dear Chairman:

I was pleased to hear that SB320 had been submitted by Senator Harry Fritz for consideration in this legislative session. As a botanist/plant ecologist working on the University of Montana campus and as a resident of Missoula, I express my support for the designation of this campus as an official state arboretum. Certainly university campuses across this great land represent a valuable resource in the magnitude and variety of woody vegetation. The University of Montana is no exception. Because of the foresight of those that have gone before, this campus has in the trees present, a living legacy which spans decades. The trees on this campus represent native species as well as exotic species some of which may not be found growing anywhere else in the state. Also, this resource allows the extension of the educational experience from the classroom to actual trees in the "field."

In the past couple of years, I have been disappointed to see individual trees, one of which was reported to have been the only representative of that species on this campus, cut and removed for the sake of parking lots and "modern landscaping." Hopefully, the designation of the campus as an arboretum would raise the level of awareness for all of us, and help us to appreciate this unique natural resource just outside the office and classroom windows.

Sincerely,

Robert B. Campbell
Botanist/Plant Ecologist
Wildlife Habitats Research Work Unit



DATE 2-18-91

COMMITTEE ON

Education

VISITORS' REGISTER

[illegible]