

## 1 HOUSE BILL NO. 207

2 INTRODUCED BY M. MACDONALD

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4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT SUPPORTING A NETWORK OF FOUR ESTABLISHED MONTANA  
5 FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT CENTERS ADMINISTERED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF  
6 AGRICULTURE; PROVIDING A FUND TRANSFER; PROVIDING AN APPROPRIATION; AND PROVIDING AN  
7 EFFECTIVE DATE."

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9 WHEREAS, the lack of infrastructure in Montana for adding value to the state's agricultural products is  
10 a primary barrier to our state capturing a significant portion of the \$3 billion that Montanans spend each year on  
11 food; and

12 WHEREAS, this lack of infrastructure is inhibiting the ability of farmers and ranchers and other agricultural  
13 entrepreneurs to serve markets for food, farm-based renewable energy, and other value-added agricultural  
14 markets, both within the state and outside the state; and

15 WHEREAS, producing for local markets on a family or community scale can reconnect Montana's rural  
16 and urban economies and enhance stewardship of Montana's natural and human resources; and

17 WHEREAS, consumer demand for Montana-based, sustainably grown, nutritious, and affordable food  
18 in Montana exceeds supply; and

19 WHEREAS, farm-derived renewable energy and biofuels hold promise to increase the profitability of  
20 family farm and ranch operations, promote domestic energy production, and lessen our dependence on foreign  
21 sources of energy; and

22 WHEREAS, previous investment and capacity built in the state for supporting value-added agricultural  
23 development need to be maintained; and

24 WHEREAS, increasing technical assistance to Montana's food and agricultural entrepreneurs can help  
25 keep more of the state's food, agricultural, and energy dollars circulating in Montana communities.

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27 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

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29 NEW SECTION. **Section 1. Fund transfer.** There is transferred \$250,000 from the research and  
30 commercialization state special revenue account established in 90-3-1002 to the state general fund in each year

1 of the biennium, to be spent in accordance with 90-3-1003(4).

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3 **NEW SECTION. Section 2. Appropriation.** The following amounts are appropriated to the department  
4 of agriculture from the general fund for each of the fiscal years 2012 and 2013 to support and administer the  
5 Montana food and agricultural development program as provided in 80-11-901:

6	FY 2012	FY 2013
7 Four centers, operation	\$240,000	\$240,000
8 Administration	\$10,000	\$10,000
9 Total	\$250,000	\$250,000

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11 **NEW SECTION. Section 3. Effective date.** [This act] is effective July 1, 2011.

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