STATE OF MONTANA OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 02-2007

EXECUTIVE ORDER ESTABLISHING THE WIRED-MONTANA'S AGRO-ENERGY PLAN-AGENCY COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT

WHEREAS. I, Brian Schweitzer, Governor of the State of Montana am committed to:

- Developing a world-class bio-products industry that catalyzes regional economic transformation from an agricultural commodity driven economy to a value added economy that supports regional prosperity in Eastern and Central Montana.
- Developing a highly trained and stable/growing workforce to support bioproducts and other high growth sectors.
- Creating an agile, integrated talent development system (workforce, education, and economic development) that will prepare state residents to act quickly to take advantage of new economic opportunities and is responsive to business needs.
- Creating an inclusive and sustainable regional identity and leadership structure that will promote innovation and ensure the long-term success of the transformational initiative.

WHEREAS, the Department of Labor and Industry, the Department of Commerce, the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education, the Governor's Office, and the Department of Agriculture continue to work in coordination to further advance the vision of the WIRED initiative; and

WHEREAS, the continued coordination and cooperation by the above agencies and all other State agencies involved in the WIRED effort will be institutionalized; and

WHEREAS, the effort by the participating agencies will continue on beyond the three year time frame of the WIRED funding to catalyze a regional economic transformation and institutionalize the WIRED transformational process of the work force system; and

WHEREAS, the effort by the participating agencies will create an agile, integrated talent development system (workforce, education and economic development) that will prepare state residents to act quickly to take advantage of new economic opportunities and is responsive to business needs; and

WHEREAS, the coordination and cooperation of the involved agencies creates an inclusive and sustainable regional identity and leadership structure that will promote innovation and ensure the long-term success of the WIRED transformational initiative; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I Brian Schweitzer, Governor of the State of Montana, by virtue of the authority vested in me under the laws and the Constitution of the State of Montana, do hereby establish the WIRED – Montana's Agro-Energy Plan - Agency Cooperation Agreement.

This Order is effective on February 15, 2007

GIVEN under my hand and the GREAT SEAL of the State of Montana, this 15th day of February 2007.

Brian Schweitzer, Governor

ATTEST: Mach A. Sim

Brad Johnson, Secretary of State