

Elsie Arntzen, Superintendent

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OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
STATE OF MONTANA

Putting Montana Students First **A⁺**



February 5, 2018

Gary Marbut
President, Montana Shooting Sports Association
P.O. Box 4924
Missoula, MT 59806

Dear Mr. Marbut,

I want to thank the Montana Shooting Sports Association for your leadership in promoting youth firearm safety. The "Be Safe" Program provides important resources for schools to instill basic firearm safety principles in students, as requested by the Montana Legislature.

Firearms play an important historical and contemporary role in our state. Montanans utilize firearms for hunting, sport shooting, and personal protection, all of which help define our state's heritage. The value that the citizens of Montana place on the right to private ownership of firearms is even expressed in our state constitution.

For these reasons, it is crucial that young Montanans learn firearm safety at an early age. The Office of Public Instruction supports and encourages the use of the "Be Safe" Program in Montana schools.

Sincerely,

Elsie Arntzen
State Superintendent