

COUNTY OF RAVALLI

October 15, 2012



Montana Department of Agriculture
Growth Through Agriculture Program
Angie Nelson, Program Manager
302 N Roberts
Helena, MT 59601

Dear Ms. Nelson,

The Ravalli County Commissioners would like to express our full support for Lakeland Feed & Supply's proposal for ISO certification using funds from the Growth Through Agriculture program. The Lakeland brand has been a community asset for over 50 years and is located in one of the first mills established in the Bitterroot valley. It remains a very important community asset not only for the two dozen jobs and payroll in excess of one million dollars, but also as a source of new jobs and innovation for future growth and economic development for our community. The community has also benefitted greatly from the expansion and renovation of the old mill site, along with the addition of the attractive new retail store in the heart of downtown Hamilton.

Lakeland is a great asset to the community and an excellent example of a business adding value to agricultural products produced in the valley and in the rest of Montana. We encourage the committee to support this innovative, forward looking initiative by Lakeland to increase the value of its products thereby accruing benefit to the entire community.

Sincerely,
BOARD OF RAVALLI COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Suzy Foss, Chairman

Greg Chilcott, Member

J.R. Iman, Member

Ron Stoltz, Member

Jeff Burrows, Member