

July 9, 2026

ITEM 225-1502-R0726

Request for Approval of University System/Employee Equity Interest and/or Business Participation Under MUSP 407; Montana Technological University

THAT

The Board of Regents of Higher Education approves Montana Technological University employee Dr. Bryce E. Hill for having an equity interest in and to serve as an officer, employee, or member of a governing board of Copper Hill Designs, LLC, a Montana limited liability company, and/or its subsidiaries and affiliates. The Board of Regents of Higher Education further authorizes Montana Technological University to enter into licensing agreements and contractual arrangements with Copper Hill Designs, LLC for use of Montana Technological University facilities, if needed.

EXPLANATION

Dr. Bryce Hill is the Department Head and Associate Professor in the Electrical Engineering Department at Montana Technological University and Copper Hill Designs, LLC at 205 Rabbit Dr., Butte, MT 59701.

Dr. Hill seeks approval to hold an equity interest in and to serve as an officer, employee, or member of a governing board of Copper Hill Designs, LLC or its subsidiaries and affiliates. Copper Hill Designs, LLC wishes to partner with Montana Technological University to license technology for sales of products related to said technology.

As an employee, Dr. Hill has and will continue to work in accordance with a conflict management plan developed by Montana Technological University. Under Policy 407 and MCA 20-25-109, university employees must have board approval to serve as officers, employees, or members of a governing board of a business entity, or to hold an equity interest in a business entity which has an agreement with, or shares ownership of intellectual property with, the university, relating to the development, licensing or commercial exploitation of that intellectual property.

Montana Technological University greatly benefits from this approval. Copper Hill Designs, LLC recognizes the value of licensing technology from Montana Technological University for the purpose of commercialization of products related to said technology. Successful manufacture, marketing, and distribution of products involving this technology will create jobs locally. Recognition associated with the invention, product development, commercialization, and local job creation will demonstrate the impact Montana Technological University can have as an exemplary unit of education and innovation with an important role in local and state economic development. Montana Technological University will also receive net sales shares from revenue generated from commercialization of products or services related to the patent.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment #1: Joint venture submission form