**Letter to the Editor Writing Tips**

A Letter to the Editor is a great chance to speak up on an issue you care about and have your voice heard! Here are a few tips to make your LTE stand out:

* Pick a current, newsworthy topic *(learn about MFU Priority topics at montanafarmersunion.com)*
* Focus on one idea or issue
* In an LTE, you can openly express your opinion and have a strong argument, but don’t rant.
* Not all OpEds need to be formal and dry. Humor and irony can be effective writing tools
* You must cite sources and have facts
* Have a strong, interesting lead. The first sentence makes or breaks an LTE and will catch or drop a reader’s attention.
* Have several strong supporting points.
* Leave your strongest argument for last.
* Have a clear editorial viewpoint – come down hard on one side of the issue.
* A strong LTE will also offer a solution or next action step.
* Include a brief bio, along with your contact information, at the end of the letter.

***Length preferences vary by publication but are generally 250 words.***

***Be sure to check with the newspaper you plan to submit to for a word limit.***

**So I wrote a Letter to the Editor, now what?**

Consider sharing it below with these great publications!

**Statewide and Agriculture Publications**

MFU Grassroots

Alice Miller

406-452-6406

amiller@montanafarmersunion.com

montanafarmersunion.com

Billings Gazette

Jeff Welsch

406-657-1208

speakup@billingsgazette.com

billingsgazette.com

Flathead Beacon

Kellyn Brown

406-257-9220

editor@flatheadbeacon.com

www.flatheadbeacon.com

**Submit to a Local Newspaper**

There are two easy ways to find contacts for your local newspaper. One is to search it on Google – most newspaper websites have a contact link. Often at the very bottom of the home page. Or many newspapers list contacts on the second page of the print newspaper if you have a copy available.

Montana Farmers Union also has a list of media contacts. Contact our office at 406-452-6406 and ask for a member of our communications team or reach out to communications@montanafarmersunion.com. Our team at MFU would be happy to assist you with reaching out to your local newspaper.

**Letter to the Editor (LTE)**

**Organizer**

*Ask publication for preferred length.*

*(Generally, 250 words.)*

Need assistance? MFU Communications team can be contacted at 406-452-6406 or communications@montanafarmersunion.com

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| **Introduction: Grab the readers’ attention and state your opinion.** |
| **Supporting reason #1** |
| **Supporting reason #2** |
| **Supporting reason #3** |
| **Closing: Firmly repeat your opinion. Give a clear “ask” or solution.** |