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Media Release

Billings Chamber Receives Five-Star Accreditation Highest National Designation Awarded for Second Time

For Immediate Release

Billings, MT, March 1, 2016: The Billings Chamber of Commerce received official word today that it will again receive Five-Star Accreditation through the U.S. Chamber of Commerce; the second time the local chamber has been awarded the highest national designation. The U.S. Chamber awards accreditation to chambers for their sound policies, effective organizational procedures, and positive impact on their communities. Only 3% of chambers nationwide are accredited, and just 1% receive five-star accreditation.

“Accreditation validates a chamber as having programs that benefit its local economy and positively influence its community,” said Raymond P. Towle, IOM, CAE, U.S. Chamber vice president of Federation Relations and Institute for Organization Management. “We applaud these organizations for advancing the principles of free enterprise.”

The only program of its kind in the country, U.S. Chamber Accreditation recognizes excellence in chamber planning and performance. To achieve Accreditation, a chamber must demonstrate quality programs, clear organizational procedures, and effective communications by meeting minimum operation and program standards in the areas of governance, program development, government affairs, and technology. This extensive self-review can take 6 – 9 months to complete.

“The Billings Chamber of Commerce works diligently to uphold high operational standards for the benefit of leading our community, and standing out as a leader among chambers nationally,” explained John Brewer, President and CEO of the Billings Chamber. “To maintain Five-Star Accreditation, paired with our Chamber of the Year recognition, is a true honor we’re proud to have earned.” The Billings Chamber of Commerce also recently received the Chamber of the Year distinction from the Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives, honoring organizational strength as well as the significant impact made on key community priorities.

Local and regional chambers are rated “Accredited,” “Accredited with 3 Stars,” “Accredited with 4 Stars,” or “Accredited with 5 Stars.” The final determination is made by the accrediting board, a committee of U.S. Chamber board members and chamber CEOs from across the country.

Chair of the Billings Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, Jeff Walters, said, “The board and staff have taken a visionary, progressive approach to leading the Billings Chamber and the community. We appreciate having these important choices validated by the national organizations leading chambers across the country.”

To maintain accreditation through the U.S. Chamber, the Billings Chamber must submit a comprehensive application to be evaluated every five years. This award will be valid until we reapply by December 31, 2021.

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Advocate. Connect. Grow. The Billings Chamber of Commerce represents you, our 1,200 members who employ more than 44,000 people. We help you grow your bottom line by connecting you to opportunities and advocating for your business and our community.

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