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## Media Release

# Chamber Event Leads Announcement of Two Major Community Initiatives

For Immediate Release

Billings, MT, September 28, 2016: Two independent community initiatives, Billings NOW and ACT, officially launched during the Chamber's Annual Meeting yesterday.

Billings NOW is a group of community leaders with a mission to transform Billings, with urgency, to a community that is competitive for economic prosperity with vibrancy to retain and recruit a talented workforce, and attract private investment. A community vision and strategic plan will be developed outlining the elements and priorities for the strategic enhancement of the Billings area.

What does that mean? It means there's a group of people with passion who've come together to move Billings forward in ways that will help our community grow and strengthen. They're soliciting ideas on what Billings needs to improve. Learn more and share your dream for this community at [BillingsNOW.org](http://BillingsNOW.org).

The second group is centered around the ACT Coalition. ACT = Authorize Community Transformation. The mission of ACT is to pass a local option authority bill in the 2017 legislative session, allowing communities the choice to fund the place-making and economic development initiatives best suited to their wants and needs. Local option empowers communities by enabling them to generate community-tailored funding solutions specific to their cities and towns.

Imagine the possibilities for your city when citizens are allowed to shape their town's future with the use of the local option to fund projects.

For more information on one of Billings NOW's most important initiatives, please visit [ACTmt.org](http://ACTmt.org).

John Brewer, President and CEO of the Billings Chamber emphasized the importance of these community-lead initiatives, "Billings is a community worth investing in and an exceptional place to live, work and play. But there is work to be done and exciting progress on the horizon. We need to take our future in our own hands, and these two initiatives are the beginning of that."

During the event, Immediate Past Chair of the Chamber Board Jeff Walters and newly elected Board Chair Bill Cole emphasized the recent successes realized by the Billings Chamber, including membership growth (currently 1,250 members who employ 47,000 people) and their designation as the 2015 Chamber of the Year and achievement of 5-star re-accreditation, achieved by less than 1% of chambers in the United States.

Learn more about these successes at [www.BillingsChamber.com](http://www.BillingsChamber.com).

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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.