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# Media Release

## Billings Chamber of Commerce Ranked Top Three in the Nation

For Immediate Release

Billings, MT, June 4, 2015: The Billings Chamber of Commerce was designated as one of the top three Chambers of Commerce in its category in the United States today, according to the Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives (ACCE). This designation puts the Billings Chamber on the map as the top three among hundreds of comparable chambers nationwide, and recognizes the organization as a finalist for the Chamber of the Year distinction. There are 7,000 chambers in the United States.



According to ACCE, chambers honored with this designation have not only demonstrated organizational strength, but also have made an impact on key community priorities. "Chamber of the Year is the nation's only award recognizing chambers for their integral role in leading businesses and developing quality of life for a

community. We are privileged to have an incredible staff of professionals who push to constantly improve our community and our organization," said Billings Chamber President & CEO John Brewer. "Our visionary and progressive board members do not shy away from taking tough positions for the sake of a better business environment and community quality of life," Brewer continued. "We especially owe our thanks to past Chair Karen Fagg, current Chair Ron Yates, Chair of the Chamber Trails Committee Bill Cole, and incoming Chair Jeff Walters for helping lead the initiatives resulting in this designation."

The Billings Chamber of Commerce complied with a series of stringent requirements operationally in order to qualify to apply for the Chamber of the Year award. Applicants must meet minimum thresholds in performance areas including net revenue, net assets, reserve funds, membership account retention and membership dollar retention to be eligible. Once these criteria were met, an extremely comprehensive application was compiled locally using two strategic initiatives to demonstrate the strength and success of the Billings Chamber of Commerce. These projects were the Chamber of the Future initiative and the Billings Trails initiative.

Brewer also shared that, “We are a 5-Star Accredited chamber through the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, putting us among just 1% of chambers nationwide. This new recognition from ACCE showcases the incredible board of directors and staff leading the Billings Chamber of Commerce. Their hard work and visionary spirit continues to place your Billings Chamber at the top of our industry across the country.”

Applications for the ACCE Chamber of the Year award were judged independently by a volunteer judging panel of chamber peers across the country. Judges evaluated applicants based on total revenue, member accounts, service area population, number of businesses in the service area, and restricted revenue as a percentage of total revenue. The final stage of judging will occur in August during the annual ACCE convention in Montreal, Canada when Billings Chamber of Commerce representatives will be interviewed by a panel of judges in person. The final determination for the Chamber of the Year award will be made August 14<sup>th</sup>.

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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.