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Media Release

Chamber/CVB Welcomes the American Energy Alliance

For Immediate Release

Billings, MT, August 10, 2012: The Billings Chamber of Commerce/Convention and Visitors Bureau is eager to welcome the American Energy Alliance's "Products and Power" bus tour to Billings on Monday, August 13th. The event, open to the public and the press, will be held at the Big Horn Resort (1801 Majestic Lane) at 5:00 p.m.

This is part of a five-week bus tour through 18 states. There will be stops in New Mexico, Montana, Missouri, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Florida. The tour, intended to highlight the economic importance of refined petroleum products, will roughly trace the route of the proposed Keystone XL pipeline. Read more about the bus tour [here](#).

Montana's refineries process 187,600 barrels of crude oil every day, and the state contributes nearly 2% of total U.S. crude oil production. Moreover, Montana is home to more than a quarter of the country's estimated coal reserves, which accounts in part for the 25% cheaper electricity the state provides to its people as opposed to the national average. Finally, Montana is a key state for the Keystone XL pipeline, which President Obama has currently blocked from development. This major project would bring needed Canadian oil into US markets and create thousands of good-paying jobs.

Regarding jobs, Montana's refinery sector pays its employees an annual wage of \$91,032, and U.S. refinery workers on average earn nearly 50 percent more each year than the national average. Currently, the state's oil and natural gas industries employ more than 40,000 residents and contribute \$4 billion to the state's coffers every year.

The Billings Chamber/CVB identifies energy development and positioning Billings as a hub for energy related activities as its top priority. To see the Chamber/CVB's position on energy and other important information on the subject click [here](#).

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Advocate. Connect. Grow.

The Billings Chamber/CVB represents you, our 1,200 members who employ 44,000 people. We help you **grow** your bottom line by **connecting** you to opportunities and **advocating** for your business and our community.