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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Governor Greg Gianforte and Montana Chamber of Commerce Co-Host Summit on Empowering Montana's Growth and Innovation

(June 20, 2024) Bozeman, MT— The Montana Chamber of Commerce, in partnership with Governor Greg Gianforte, is co-hosting the 2024 Big Sky, Bright Future Summit today, Thursday, June 20th, in Bozeman.

The sold-out Summit is convening leaders from industry, government, and academia to address the Montana Chamber's [Envision 2026](#) strategic pillars: Business Climate, Infrastructure, Entrepreneurship, and Workforce Development, highlighting current efforts with housing & childcare; manufacturing; business startups & recruitment; and trades & apprenticeship—all crucial elements driving Montana's economic resurgence.

"With record business creation and more Montanans working now than ever before, it's clear Montana's economy is on the move. Thanks to our pro-business, pro-jobs policies we're welcoming investment across all industries," Governor Greg Gianforte said. "We'll continue to cut red tape and make Montana an even better place to do business and create new opportunities for Montanans.

In recent years, Montana has welcomed a wave of nationally recognized brands, from the artisanal hand-blown glass company glassybaby to the precision rifle manufacturer Olympus Arms creating unprecedented career opportunities and diversifying the state's economic landscape.

"This is a pivotal moment for business in Montana," said Todd O'Hair, President & CEO of the Montana Chamber of Commerce. "Companies are increasingly drawn to the unique opportunities Montana offers, making our state a prime destination for growth. To sustain this momentum, we must address key challenges like housing and childcare."

Panel discussions include the critical need for industry to continue to create apprenticeships for in-demand skills and partner with public schools to prepare students for the workforce of tomorrow. In 2023, the Governor nearly doubled the Montana Trades Education Credit (MTEC), offering employers credit for employee education and training. Housing supply progress and what has been termed the "Montana Miracle" and innovative childcare solutions will also be highlighted.

Coalition members from the Headwaters Technology Hub (**HTH**) which is seeking \$75 million in federal funding to advance photonics-based sensing and autonomous systems technologies, will share how Montana is a global leader and hopes for the region's

expansion with additional commercial applications in agriculture, critical resource management, construction, and national defense.

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About the Montana Chamber of Commerce

Established in 1931, the Montana Chamber of Commerce is the state's largest business advocacy organization serving its 2,000 members, from sole proprietors to publicly traded companies, and all industry sectors located throughout the 56 counties of the Treasure State.

The Montana Chamber is guided by Envision 2026, a 10-year strategic plan which aims to grow Montana's economy by improving the business climate, ensuring appropriate infrastructure investment, developing a skilled workforce, and promoting entrepreneurship in partnership with its philanthropic arm, the Montana Chamber Foundation.

For more information, visit: www.montanachamber.com.