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STATE OF MONTANA

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 16, 2015

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Montana Hosts Inbound Chinese Trade Delegation

Trade Delegation of Chinese Investors Visits as a Result of Governor Bullock's Fall 2014 Trade Mission to China

HELENA – Governor Steve Bullock and the Montana Department of Commerce hosted an inbound Chinese trade delegation on Friday, January 16. The delegation, comprised of more than 20 Chinese investors representing a variety of industries, spent the day hearing investment pitches from and discussing exporting opportunities with 27 Montana companies.

"This delegation is here because they are interested specifically in investing in Montana-made products and exploring other mutually-beneficial trade opportunities," said Bullock. "Expanding our trade relationship with China is one of our greatest opportunities to boost Montana's exporting economy and attract foreign direct investments to business projects in the state."

The Office of Trade and International Relations at the Department of Commerce worked together with Allway Group, a Seattle-based company that specializes in facilitating trade between Asia and the United States, to organize the inbound trade mission.

"After Governor Bullock led a delegation of Montana businesses to China last fall, it is exciting and very promising to see the Chinese reciprocating interest in Montana's economy," said Director O'Leary. "China is currently Montana's third largest trading partner and we are strategically positioning ourselves to capitalize on this budding trade relationship between Montana and China."

Montana companies participated in an all-day seminar with the Chinese investors at the Great Northern Hotel. The seminar included presentations from the Department of Commerce about Montana's business and foreign direct investment opportunities, as well as individual presentations by the Montana companies. Gov. Bullock addressed the delegation and spent time meeting with the investors and the Montana companies.

Some of the participating Montana businesses included: Algae Aquaculture Technologies, Absaroka Energy, Etha Hotel, Green Venture Enterprises, GUIT, Headframe Spirits, International Biomass, Montana Malting, PFM Manufacturing, RoBarr, Rancher's Original, Tipu's Chai, Trailhead Commerce

Park, Trailhead Spirits, ViZn Energ, Wavesource, Whistling Andy's Distillery, Wide Open West Adventures, Willie's Distillery, and ZAF Energy Systems.

Last fall, Gov. Bullock led a delegation of Montana business owners to Beijing, Shanghai, and Montana's sister-state, Guangxi. The Montana companies on the trade mission participated in Gold Key Meetings arranged by the U.S. Commercial Service that matched the business with Chinese companies and investors interested in their product. Gov. Bullock and other Montana officials met with U.S. Ambassador to China Max Baucus, officials from the Ministry of Commerce, the National Energy Administration, and other government officials and diplomats. In Guangxi, the delegation celebrated the 15th anniversary of the sister-state relationship.

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