

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF MONTANA

Steve Bullock
GOVERNOR



Mike Cooney
LT. GOVERNOR

June 27, 2017

Dear Montana Business Leaders, Entrepreneurs, and Community Members:

I am pleased to recognize June 27, 2017 as “Innovate Day” in the state of Montana. This is an important opportunity to highlight the innovation and tenacity of Montanans from all across the Big Sky State.

As Governor, my top priority is job creation, and to create jobs we need a strong economy. Montana has the 6th best wage growth in the nation and we were recently named the top state for overall income growth. Montana is ranked as the 6th best tax climate for businesses and was also named as the state with the fairest tax system in the U.S. And, Montana has had the most entrepreneurs and start-ups per capita in the nation for the last four years in a row. Hard work and innovation run through our veins here in Montana and “Innovate Day” is a reminder of the incredible work and ideas being developed by industrious Montanans.

But there is always more we can do to continue strengthening our economy and seizing opportunities. That is why I created the Main Street Montana Project, a private-public partnership to build upon our state’s strengths while addressing potential challenges.

The Main Street Montana Project launched the Innovate Montana Symposium to bring business leaders from every corner of the state together to grow businesses, train and educate Montana’s workforce, increase economic opportunities, and encourage innovation. The Symposium is Montana’s signature annual event, connecting innovative ventures from diverse industries and geographic regions with economic opportunity. Over the course of two days, insights, tools, and networking opportunities will be provided to further develop thriving businesses and communities in our state. The event’s speaker series will be paired with focused breakout sessions to directly channel inspiration into action plans. The keynote speakers, Dave Morin, CEO of Slow Ventures and Bethany Yellowtail, founder of b.Yellowtail Designs, will bring powerful perspectives about innovating for success in today’s global economy. Networking and social events will make sure the right people are in the room for creating new collaborations and powerful partnerships.

I encourage all Montanans to acknowledge June 27, 2017 as “Innovate Day” and I look forward to sparking the next big idea with all of you at the Innovate Montana Symposium on July 12-13, 2017

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Steve Bullock".

STEVE BULLOCK
Governor