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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Governor Steve Bullock to Lead Montana Business Delegation on Monumental Trade Mission to China

The mission will focus on increased export opportunities, foreign direct investment into Montana, educational and cultural exchanges, and increased tourism for the State of Montana

HELENA, MT – Governor Steve Bullock will lead a delegation of Montana business owners on a trade mission to China from September 19 through September 28th.

Organized by the Governor's Office, the Montana Department of Commerce, and the U.S. Commercial Service, the mission will be filled with business to business meetings, the goal of which is Montana companies returning home with signed contracts to sell their products in China.

"I am excited about the opportunity to further open Chinese markets to Montana businesses, and am honored to lead this delegation on my administration's first international trade mission," said Bullock. "China is a country with great trade potential for Montana – perhaps our greatest opportunity for trade growth in the world – and I'm pleased to join the delegates and help them open the doors for businesses to sign contracts and make investment deals."

Governor Bullock will meet with high-level officials in the Chinese government and will give numerous presentations about Montana to Chinese business, investment, education, and tourism leaders.

"My job on this mission will be focused on helping Montana businesses and this trip will further the goals of my Main Street Montana Project," said Bullock. "I'll personally be speaking to government ministers, education leaders, and potential investors about the ample opportunity that Montana has for deepening our mutually-beneficial relationship with China."

Business and investment meetings, referred to as "Gold Key Meetings," have been arranged by the U.S. Commercial Service for the business owners participating in the trade mission. These meetings are specifically and strategically arranged to match the Montana business with several Chinese companies and investors that are ready to invest in or purchase their exact product.

Participating businesses include United Grain Corporation, SRS Crisafulli, Inc., Headframe Spirits, Big Sky Resort, One Montana, Montana Precision Products, 5.19 Oilfield Services, Wide Open West Adventures, the Washington Companies, and CTA Architects and Engineers.

“I am honored and excited to be a part of this monumental trade mission,” said Jim Peterson, Republican State Senator, rancher, and Co-Founder of One Montana. “The prospect of generating foreign direct investment for the livestock industry in Montana is exciting; but I also look forward to representing Montana’s overall business and agricultural interests, and promoting the state as a valuable investment for Chinese business owners.”

Other participants include Meg O’Leary, Director of the Montana Department of Commerce; Carey Hester, Director of the Montana U.S. Export Assistance Center; Dr. Abraham Kim, Director of the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Center at the University of Montana; and Suhan Chen, Assistant Director of the Mansfield Center and the Executive Director of the Confucius Institute at the University of Montana. Chen will also serve as the delegation’s interpreter.

“By leading this delegation of Montana businesses to one of the world’s largest economies, the state of Montana is leveraging direct export opportunities, as well as strengthening existing trade relations,” said Meg O’Leary, Director of the Montana Department of Commerce. “We’re growing foreign direct investment, and promoting cross-cultural ties. It’s a very ambitious mission that we’ve put together, and we’re confident that the results will be worth the effort.”

The delegation will also visit the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region to renew Montana’s commitment to a sister-state relationship begun fifteen years ago. Governor Bullock will be the first governor to meet with officials in Guangxi since the inception of the relationship.

[Audio Clip 1](#), [Audio Clip 2](#)