WHEREAS, this Administration is committed to creating more and better paying jobs for Montanans, promoting the overall economic development of the State, and encouraging innovation and entrepreneurship;

WHEREAS, it is appropriate and constructive to identify perceived and actual impediments to economic development;

WHEREAS, it is also appropriate and constructive to identify potential ways to encourage and incentivize economic development and innovation;

WHEREAS, the agencies of state government have a role in facilitating economic development while also effectively implementing and administering their responsibilities under state law;

WHEREAS, regulation must be consistent, predictable and timely;

WHEREAS, business and labor leaders can offer valuable perspectives and recommendations on how the public and private sectors can more effectively foster economic development and innovation;

WHEREAS, my Administration launched an effort to formulate a plan for increasing prosperity for all Montanans, known as the Main Street Montana Project;

WHEREAS, under the direction of two of Montana’s most prominent business leaders, Bill Johnstone and Larry Simkins, the Main Street Montana Project has conducted research, and solicited input from nearly 3,000 Montanans from all regions in the State;

WHEREAS, the Main Street Montana Project Report is being publicly released on this date;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, STEVE BULLOCK, Governor of the State of Montana, by virtue of the authority vested in me under the laws and Constitution of the State of Montana, do hereby ORDER AND DIRECT:

1. All state agencies are directed to cooperate and assist in the implementation of the tasks identified in the Main Street Montana Project Report. Each department’s director shall be responsible for ensuring that his or her department complies with this directive.
2. The Department of Commerce, Department of Labor, and the Governor’s Office of Economic Development shall provide staff, technical, and research support for the implementation of the Main Street Montana Project tasks.

3. The Main Street Montana Project implementation team shall issue annual status reports, with the first report to be issued by no later than March 1, 2015.

This Order is effective immediately and shall remain in effect until modified or rescinded by future Executive Order of the Governor.

Given under my hand and the GREAT SEAL of the State of Montana, this 3 day of April, 2014.

Steve Bullock, Governor

ATTESTED:

LINDA MCCULLOCH, Secretary of State