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**Montana's Community Banks: Empowering local communities**

*Montana Bankers Association Report highlights commitment to state*

**Helena, Mont.** – Montana banks are at the core of the Montana community – empowering lives and strengthening the state we love to call home. From Baker to White Sulphur Springs, Montana banks are deeply woven into the fabric of daily life. They provide financing for the local coffee shop, assist with ag equipment loans for farmers and ranchers, host fundraisers for United Way, and much more. They are the unsung heroes of their local communities, bringing growth and economic prosperity to Montana.

A recent report prepared by the MBA highlights just how deep that involvement and investment goes. Looking at the numbers, Montana banks:

- Create more than 16,500 jobs and \$1.3 billion in annual income across the state
- Pay an estimated \$147 million in taxes each year
- Fund 45,179 small business entrepreneurs
- Support 24,096 small farm loans across Montana

Impressive as those numbers are, they are rooted in something even bigger – a passionate commitment to building strong and inspired Montana communities.

“This is an opportunity to show Montanans how involved their banks and bankers are in helping serve not only the financial needs of their customers, but also by contributing as caring members of their communities,” said Tom Severson, Chairman, MBA Board of Directors.

This leads to contributions which go well beyond the numbers as local bank employees have

- assisted the Optimist Club hosting a regional conference
- participated in a company-wide Volunteer Day
- spent 3,200 hours every year volunteering in their communities, showing their support through civic involvement in everything from Little League to food banks and 4H.

More information on the economic and personal contributions of Montana banks to the state, as well as the complete report, can be found on the website: [www.ourmontanabanks.com](http://www.ourmontanabanks.com)

The Montana Bankers Association is dedicated to ensuring the continued strength of community banks as providers of capital, credit, financial services asset management, employment, and community support. MBA strives to enrich the lives of all Montanans. Established in 1904, the association is governed by a 15-member board of directors from its Helena headquarters.

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