



### Statements of Support for Daines' RELIEF for Main Street Act

“I was involved in starting Toole County Forward with a simple principle: in rural communities, neighbors help neighbors. We can see many of our local businesses closed due to COVID-19 and Main Street did not have a car on it, that meant our community was in trouble. Senator Daines took our idea back to the U.S Senate and is introducing legislation to support local small business relief efforts. The relief for Main Street Act builds on what’s already working by delivering dollars to expand community based funds like the one we’ve started in Toole County. This is the exact kind of bottom-up approach we need to launch an economic comeback. I appreciate Senator Daines’ attention to the challenges facing rural businesses and look forward to seeing this vital legislation cross the finish-line.” -**Dwaine Iverson, Founding Members, Toole County Forward**

“The Montana Chamber is pleased to support the Relief for Main Street Act as introduced by Senator Daines. This bipartisan effort is a big win for small businesses, especially in rural Montana, that are most impacted by the coronavirus crisis. Access to assistance like this keeps the “open” sign lit.” - **Todd O’Hair, President and CEO, Montana Chamber of Commerce**

“The Montana Association of Counties (MACo) has had a long standing policy statement that economic development must begin at the local level and involve the entire community and that local governments need to continue to support existing businesses' efforts to compete in the new economy and encourage business development. As the current President of MACo I appreciate Senator Daines working to provide relief to our business community. The Relief for Main St. Act puts local communities in the driver's seat by allowing local government and their economic development partners to work closely with the business community in addressing the economic impacts of COVID-19. We support the Relief for Main St. Act and appreciate the Senator's understanding of the important role that counties play in both the public health emergency response and in implementing a community driven economic recovery program.” - **Shane Gorder, President, Montana Association of Counties**

“It’s great to see Congressional leaders unveil the RELIEF for Main Street Act, a program that will make vital resources available at the local level. Senator Daines has long been a champion of empowering local control of federal resources because folks on the ground know their communities and what they need. Connecting federal dollars with local decision-making power is a critical piece of the puzzle for helping main street small business through this, and one that will go far in helping our rural economies rebound in the wake of COVID-19.” - **Dave Glaser, President, MoFi**

“MEDA is encouraged by the Relief for Main Street Act and supports this concept of pushing resources to help small businesses to the local-community level, where MEDA member organizations can provide the hands-on support many small businesses need at this time.”- **Brian Obert, MEDA Vice President**

“I am a firm believer that funds provided to local jurisdictions are more effectively deployed than those of large scale nationally administered programs. I greatly appreciate Senator Daines’ effort and will whole heartedly support the Relief for Main Street Act.” –**Mark Johnson, Mayor, City of Kalispell**

“The Kalispell Chamber is grateful to Senator Daines for bringing forward the Relief for Main Street Act. This bill will provide much needed emergency funding and technical assistance to American companies and \$187 million to Montana’s small businesses. It is especially timely for the businesses of Northwest Montana due to the devastating impact of COVID-19 on commerce and employment over the past 60 days.”- **Joe Unterreiner, President, Kalispell Chamber of Commerce Convention & Visitor Bureau**

“We want to thank Montana Senator Steve Daines for his leadership in championing this crucial small business relief package. This proposed relief package would provide many small Montana business owners the opportunity to sustain their businesses during this period of reduced activity and sales. Montana businesses will be in recovery mode for an extended time, and knowing they have the support and backing from this relief package will allow them to keep their doors open, keep their valuable employees and provide the needed resources, goods and services for our region. Big Sky Economic Development is committed to helping our business community recover in the safest way possible, knowing that community and economic health are both key to recovery. Our work recently has been focused on assisting small businesses as they navigate through this new world of federal/state assistance, manage employee decisions, and educate them on future options to pivot their business in order to sustain operations during this COVID19 disruption and thrive in a post COVID19 economy. Our organization fully supports the work of Senator’s Daines and Booker, and we would be “at the ready” to help put these resources into our business community in a professional and thoughtful way.”- **Steve Arveschoug, Executive Director, Big Sky Economic Development**

“From the beginning of COVID-19 and government closures, Snowy Mountain Development has experienced an overwhelming number of requests for help from small businesses. While SBA programs have provided important emergency relief many of our business partners face a long and difficult road to recovery. We applaud Senator Daines’ efforts to provide targeted economic relief to our most vulnerable businesses.” - **Kathy Bailey, Executive Director, Snowy Mountain Development Corporation**

“The Covid-19 pandemic is causing a great deal of uncertainty for small businesses like mine. The Relief for Main Street Act provides an important tool to help businesses keep their doors open. I thank Senator Daines for his strong advocacy for our community’s Main Street businesses.” - **Michelle Tafoya, Owner, EspressoWay**

“MWED and FCEDA support the ‘Relief for Main Street Act’ and appreciate the hard work of Senator Daines and his partners in Congress to support and strengthen our small businesses and communities.”- **Jerry Meerkatz, CEO and President, Montana West Economic Development and Flathead County Economic Development Authority**