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Montana Chamber of Commerce joins Infrastructure Week 2017

Infrastructure Week – May 15-19, 2017 – is a week-long series of events raising awareness about why it is #TimeToBuild better infrastructure for our country

The State Chamber is participating in the national advocacy and educational event, *Infrastructure Week*, which takes place from May 15-19, 2017. Across the country, businesses, labor organizations, elected officials and more are coming together to spread the message about why it is *#TimeToBuild*. The Montana Chamber will cap the week of activity by chairing the annual meeting of the Montana Infrastructure Coalition May 23 in Helena.

Farmers, factory workers, commuters, school-children – all Americans – need efficient, affordable, and reliable infrastructure. Roads, bridges, rails, schools, airports, water and sewer pipes, the energy grid, broadband... infrastructure is vital. It is the foundation of our jobs, quality of life, economic competitiveness, and even national security and public safety.

Yet the nation's transportation, water, energy, and communications infrastructure is under-funded, poorly maintained, and inadequately designed to meet 21st century needs. Freight and passenger networks are congested, water systems and energy grids were designed generations ago, and roads and bridges are falling apart. There is a massive gap between the need to invest in our infrastructure and current funding. Now is the time to build something better.

"The Montana Chamber of Commerce and the Montana infrastructure Coalition made good progress in the recently-completed Legislative Session on addressing infrastructure needs in Big Sky Country," said Webb Brown, President/CEO of the State Chamber. "However, much remains to not only meet current needs, but catch up on deferred maintenance. We look forward to continuing one of the major focuses of our ten-year strategic plan, Envision 2026 – namely, Infrastructure Investment."

"We are thrilled that the Montana Chamber is joining *Infrastructure Week*. The dire state of America's infrastructure is one of the most pressing issues facing us as a nation, and the benefits of a stronger, better infrastructure system will be far-reaching and long-lasting," said Zach Schafer, director of *Infrastructure Week*. "During *Infrastructure Week*, we bring together the public and private sector to encourage lawmakers to think long-term and invest in infrastructure at the federal, state and local level."

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More information about *Infrastructure Week* can be found here: <http://InfrastructureWeek.org/>