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West Paw Design Named 2016 Montana Manufacturer of the Year **Bozeman company recognized for growth and commitment to community.**

The Montana Manufacturing Association (MMA) is honored to name West Paw Design of Bozeman the 2016 Montana Manufacturer of the Year.

"Our winner makes me proud to be associated with the manufacturing industry here in Montana," said Bryan Wood, President and CEO of Wood's Powr-Grip in Laurel. Wood serves as Chair of the MMA and is a past winner of the Manufacturer of the Year award. "West Paw Design has developed a number of proprietary technologies and has an outstanding track record of community involvement and employee engagement."

West Paw Design manufactures safe, durable and eco-friendly pet products. Using sustainable materials, the company has continually incorporated environmentally friendly strategies into its manufacturing processes, facility and operations. In addition to their environmental commitment, West Paw Design continues to grow revenues in both domestic and foreign markets.

The Bozeman-based company is also innovative in many facets of the business. West Paw Design was the first company to become a Benefit Corporation in Montana as a way of furthering their commitment to the "B Corp" movement. B Corps are for-profit companies certified by the nonprofit B Lab to meet rigorous standards of social and environmental performance, accountability, and transparency.

"Earning the Montana Manufacturer of the Year award is meaningful to all of the employees who are the heart and soul of the company," said Spencer Williams, Owner and President of West Paw Design. "Since 1996, we have taken our passion for making eco-friendly pet products and turned it into an opportunity to create jobs in our local economy and state. We love Montana, which is why we choose to continue to manufacture pet products and raise our families here," concluded Williams.

West Paw Design will be presented with their 2016 Manufacturer of the Year award during lunch at Manufacturing and International Trade Day. The event takes place March 1, 2017 from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the State Capitol Rotunda in Helena. The event is free and open to the public.

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About the Montana Manufacturing Association

The Montana Manufacturing Association (MMA) is the statewide association for manufacturers and their supporters. The MMA works on a wide range of issues on behalf of manufacturers, including workforce training, international trade, and making a better economic climate for all manufacturers to thrive. For more information, go to the website, www.MontanaManufacturingAssociation.com.