

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF MONTANA

STEVE BULLOCK
GOVERNOR



MIKE COONEY
LT. GOVERNOR

October 5, 2016

Fellow Montanans:

I am pleased to recognize October 7, 2016 as "National Manufacturing Day" in Montana. I appreciate the efforts of all of you who have gathered here for the Montana Manufacturing Conference.

As Governor, my top priority is job creation, and to create jobs we need a strong economy. Montana's economy is strong and I see it getting even stronger. Montana has the 6th best wage growth in the nation and was recently named the top state for overall income growth. And, more Montanans are working now than at any other time in our state's history.

According to the Montana Manufacturing Extension Center, manufacturing employment in Montana is growing at a faster rate than the national average. In fact, manufacturing employment in Montana has increased by almost five percent from 2004 to 2014. The manufacturing industry employs nearly 24,000 Montanans, and manufacturing exports average about \$1 billion per year. Montana companies understand the value of selling their goods and services all over the world. It not only helps those businesses expand, but also grows our state economy and creates good jobs.

Through my Main Street Montana Project, the state has cut red tape and increased opportunities for Montana businesses by putting more Montanans to work through job training and apprenticeship programs, promoting made-in-Montana products and businesses, and investing in research to benefit Montana residents, businesses, and industries. The Main Street Montana Project continues to be a driving force of unprecedented partnerships between the private sector and state government, and I look forward to continuing to develop and strengthen these partnerships with the manufacturing and export industries of Montana.

Thank you all for the hard work you are doing to ensure that Montana's manufacturing industry continues to grow and thrive. I encourage all Montanans to recognize October 7, 2016 as "National Manufacturing Day."

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "S. Bullock".

STEVE BULLOCK
Governor