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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Big Sky Chamber of Commerce Continues Community Housing Effort – Selects Comma Q to Produce Preliminary Architectural Report

Big Sky, Montana [May 7, 2015] – The Big Sky Chamber of Commerce was successful with its Community Development Block Grant fund application to the Montana Department of Commerce and recently selected Comma Q of Bozeman, as the lead firm to produce a needed Preliminary Architectural Report (**PAR**) for the community. Gallatin County sponsored the grant on behalf of Big Sky and was awarded \$42,000 to complete the report.

The purpose of a **PAR** is to help the community identify feasible locations and preliminary plans to develop housing for year-round workers, both owned and multifamily rental properties. The goal is to create housing which cost no more than 30% of monthly gross wages for year round employees. Currently over 83% of the workforce in Big Sky is forced to commute. Most live in the Bozeman and Belgrade area. “Lack of housing in general is a large issue for Big Sky employers and is a drag on our local economy” stated David O Connor, owner of Bucks T 4 and Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. “Our mission is the success of local businesses. Without a talented labor pool our businesses will not thrive.”

Comma Q’s winning proposal includes a multi-disciplinary team of architects, engineers and housing finance experts. Comma Q released a request for information and received numerous quality sites to evaluate. Over the course of the next few weeks, the team will visit potential sites and develop a preferred list for one or two sites that have the highest likelihood to succeed. The public and business community will have a chance to participate when the planning process begins. A final **PAR** is expected in late August. Additional information can be found at bigskychamber.com/housing.

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About the Big Sky Chamber of Commerce

The Big Sky Chamber of Commerce is a-nonprofit association of more than 400 members at the local, state, and national level. The Chamber supports the community by operating the Big Sky and Greater Yellowstone Visitor Center conveniently located off of U.S. Highway 191, 43 miles south of Bozeman and just 47 miles north of Yellowstone National Park. For more information visit www.bigskychamber.com