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BURNS APPOINTED AS HONORARY CO-CHAIRMAN, U.S.-TAIWAN BUSINESS COUNCIL

U.S. Sen. Conrad Burns (R-Mont) announced today that he has been appointed as Honorary Co-Chairman of the U.S.-Taiwan Business Council.

The purpose of the U.S.-Taiwan Business Council is to develop trade and business relationships between the U.S. and the Republic of China on Taiwan. The Council provides its members with access to a network of companies involved in business between Taiwan and the United States, and serves as an effective spokesman in dealing with business, trade, and investment matters.

“This is a wonderful opportunity to better trade between the United States and Taiwan, and between Montana and Taiwan,” said Burns. “Right now Taiwan is one of top five export destinations for Montana. Our trade relationship is very important, and something we need to continue working to make stronger. My new role as Honorary Co-Chairman is a great opportunity to help strengthen this relationship.”

Speaking about trade relations between Montana and Taiwan, Dean Folkvord, President and CEO of Wheat Montana Farms and Bakery said “We have continually struggled to develop business relationships with countries in the Pacific Rim. I am confident with Senator Burns’ new role as a Honorary Co-Chair of the Council, and believe he will be instrumental in helping open doors and creating opportunities for entrepreneurs and interested businessmen from Montana.”

Ray Thompson, President and CEO of Semitool in Kalispell noted, “Semitool has extensive ties to the Taiwan market. Competition in the world market is intense, any support the Council can give is appreciated. Continued strong relationships with Taiwan semiconductor industry is important to future business for Semitool and we support efforts in strengthening those ties.”

Sen. Burns is also Co-Chair of the U.S.-Asia Network, an organization designed to promote non-partisan dialogue among U.S. and Asian policymakers, corporate leaders, and scholars on issues of importance in U.S.-Asia relations.

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