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MEMORANDUM

To: Montana Legislature, Economic Affairs Interim Committee

             Senate Members: Gordon Vance (Vice Chair), Tom Facey, Rick Ripley, Lea Whitford

             House Members: Ryan Lynch (Chair), Nate McConnell, Mike Lang, Vince Ricci

             Staff: Pat Murdo (lead staff), Jameson Walker (staff attorney), Laura Sherley (secretary)

From: Darryl L. James

Date: June 7, 2016

Subject: **Montana Alcohol Coalition**
            Update to Economic Affairs Interim Committee

The Montana Alcohol Coalition was established following the 2015 legislative session with the goal of identifying a legislative package mutually agreeable to each segment of the alcoholic beverage industry in Montana.

The Coalition is made up of three representatives from each of the following (alphabetically):

- Gaming Industry Association of Montana
- Liquor Store Owners Association of Montana
- Montana Beer and Wine Distributors Association
- Montana Brewers Association
- Montana Distillers Guild
- Montana Retail Association / Montana Restaurant Association
- Montana Tavern Association

Each of the three tiers (production, distribution and retail sales) in this highly regulated industry are represented in the Coalition.

In the winter of 2015, the Coalition sought the services of a meeting facilitator to help guide their deliberations, and Darryl James was retained by the Coalition in January of this year.

Mr. James is an independent consultant in Helena, and has spent the last 20+ years of his career focused on planning, environmental compliance, communications and government affairs for major infrastructure, land use, and natural resource development projects. He was selected to serve as the Coalition facilitator based on his collaborative approach to decision-making and because he has no professional ties to any of the three tiers of the alcoholic beverage industry.

On behalf of the Coalition, Darryl will provide an overview of the group's ongoing discussions and identify some of the major policy areas they hope to address in the upcoming session.