



**Montana Bankers Association Issues Statement
In Support of Governor Steve Bullock's Efforts to Keep People Home and Safe**

Helena – 3.31.2020: The Montana Bankers Association issued the following statement in support of Montana Governor Steve Bullock's efforts to keep Montanans at home and safe:

"Bankers in Montana support and applaud the Governor's efforts to keep people safe by staying at home whenever possible, which we realize is creating great financial hardship for people who are finding it difficult to make scheduled loan payments," Cary Hegreberg, president/CEO of the Montana Bankers Association said today. "Governor Bullock's order pretty much codifies what most banks have been doing already to assist customers in financial distress. They are waiving late fees and penalties, delaying payments and working with borrowers who are receiving no income or limited income due to no fault of their own. Foreclosure is always a last resort in any situation. Banks do not desire to foreclose on residential property in these economically strained times."

"Staying at home means you have to have a home," Hegreberg said. He encouraged those who have a job or steady source of income to continue paying their bills and loan payments because the Governor's order is not "a free pass" to ignore financial obligations. "If you can make your payments, you'll be doing yourself and the overall economy a favor down the road by meeting your commitments."

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