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PRESS RELEASE

All Montanans' have a new tool to enhance their "Right to Know" during the 2023 state legislature.

Missoula, January 9, 2023: Knowing what's happening in Montana's state legislature just got as easy as using Google. Six Montana Chambers of Commerce pooled resources to support Open Montana's deployment of the Council Data Project for the Montana state legislative session. This tool will perform the following services for every citizen, business, state agency, and organization in Montana:

- **Transcribe the approximately 9,000 hours of video** that are expected to be produced during the state legislative session
- Make these transcripts **searchable** and **rank results by relevance**
- Let users **easily jump to the most relevant portions** of videos
- Allow users to **share links to a specific moment in a video**
- Integrate with the 2023 **Capitol Tracker**, which tracks the progress of bills through the Montana state legislature (coming soon)

This tool will help our members, businesses, state organizations and the general public understand and react quickly to developments in the legislative session. We believe this will result in better and more transparent government in Montana. A direct link to the tool is here.

This project was sponsored by the following Chambers: **Missoula, Helena, Big Sky, Montana, Kalispell,** and **Great Falls.**

Council Data Project is an open-source software project dedicated to providing journalists, activists, researchers, and community members with the tools they need to stay informed and hold their governments accountable.

Open Montana is working to make governments in Montana more transparent, participatory, and collaborative. It is a program of DemocracyLab, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with a mission to empower people who use technology for public good.

Kim Latrielle, President/CEO of the Missoula Area Chamber of Commerce said "We take our Right to Know seriously, and this tool will make it much easier for citizens and businesses to understand what's happening in the legislature and to advocate for their interest."

Mark Frischmuth, DemocracyLab's Executive Director, commented "Support from Montana's Chambers made it possible for us to deploy an instance of the Council Data Project's amazing software for the state legislative session. We're excited to make this contribution to good government in Montana, and hope to create additional value for the state through our Open Montana initiative."

Eva Maxfiled Brown, Project Lead of the Council Data Project (CDP) offered "We have previously deployed Council Data Project instances for seventeen different city and county councils and we are excited to work with Open Montana to implement CDP for the Montana State Legislature."

The Missoula Area Chamber of Commerce
"In memory of his hard work and dedication to this project Steve Clawson, GA Chair 2022"