

To our valued members,

Thank you for joining us this week for our Industry Roundtable event where we facilitated a discussion with business owners in the construction and trades sectors. We value your time and the input.

The Chamber listened carefully to the challenges and hurdles currently facing your industry and have identified some areas where we would like to help.

Below is a summary of some of the hindrances we noted.

- Apprenticeship ratios
- Workforce availability
- Permitting and zoning delays
- Communication with city and county officials

In these four areas, the Chamber has resolved to help this industry by advocating and connecting where possible. Clint Burson, Director of Government Affairs and the session's facilitator, will be taking the following steps in the coming weeks to start moving the needle on these initiatives.

- Work with the Montana Department of Labor & Industry to better understand the current apprenticeship ratio rule and how it might be altered to better accommodate employers workforce needs.
- Request a meeting between City and County leaders and the businesses in this industry to begin a more transparent relationship and converse to find resolutions to the permitting and zoning delays.
- Collaborate with the Montana Department of Labor & Industry to help destigmatize the perception of the industry through a current campaign designed to promote apprenticeships and other paid training opportunities to students and the next generation of workforce.
- Investigate impact fees tied to development in the Mullan area in association with the BUILD grant.

Another topic discussed was the creation of the statewide "Workforce Connections" website. The site will be launched February 1, 2021 and will be featured as the topic of our State of Missoula address. This website covers opportunities from all over the state and will be a valuable resource for students and school counselors for identifying pathways to different careers. If your organization has an opportunity that would be appropriate for the website, we have the ability to add it today. Please contact Kimberly Hannon at [kimberly@missoulachamber.com](mailto:kimberly@missoulachamber.com) for more information.

As we make progress on these endeavors we will update this group and share insights. We encourage you all to share other ways that the Chamber can help support you.