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## MONTANA'S HOUSING MARKET CONTINUES TO CLIMB

**Helena, MT**, February 11, 2016– Montana's housing market continues to show healthy growth, with a double-digit increase in the number of single-family homes sold across the state at year-end, 2015. The Montana Association of REALTORS® received sales data from local associations across the state. These numbers show an 11% increase in single-family home sales in 2015, with a total of 10,212 sales in 2015 compared to 9,455 in 2014.

*"Montana REALTORS® are so pleased and excited to see the housing market improve," MAR President Teri Polumsky remarks. "Realtors® across the state accept the challenge of helping their clients find a house they can call home. When the housing numbers for our industry improve, it means that more Montanans are able to invest in the American dream of home ownership. That helps to strengthen and build our Montana families and communities."*

In total, all nine major markets posted significant growth. The largest percentage increase in year-to-year sales of single family homes was reported by the Bitterroot Valley Board of REALTORS®. The area had a 43% (+154 homes) increase in the number of homes sold at the end of 2015, compared to 2014. The Northwest Montana Association of REALTORS® was next at 15% (+256 homes), followed by the Missoula Organization of REALTORS® (+11%/115 homes), the Helena Association of REALTORS® (+7%/61 homes), Park County Board of REALTORS® (+6.7%/12 houses), Rocky Mountain Association of REALTORS® (+6.5%/26 houses), Great Falls Association of REALTORS® (+3.3%/24 houses), Gallatin Association of REALTORS® (+3%/57 houses), and Billings Association of REALTORS® (+2%/52 houses).

*"Mortgage rates remain at near historic lows and all signs point to a strong 2016," MAR CEO Taylor Oldroyd commented. "With solid winter sales, and a market ready to pick up more momentum in the spring, we are gearing up for a phenomenal year."*

Montanans can exhale a sigh of relief as they watch their equity rise, and celebrate as the housing market continues to be a strong point in the overall economy of the state.

*The Montana Association of REALTORS® is the voice for real estate in Montana. They are a state-wide trade association representing more than 4,300 members involved in all aspects of the residential and commercial real estate markets throughout Montana. The Montana Association of REALTORS® is the business and public policy advocate for its members and the consumers they serve.*

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