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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MONTANA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES ANNOUNCES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MACo Deputy Director Eric Bryson Selected

HELENA, MT – The Montana Association of Counties’ Board of Directors is pleased to announce the selection of MACo Deputy Director Eric Bryson as the new MACo Executive Director. Current Executive Director, Harold Blattie, who has been serving as MACo’s Executive Director since 2005, has announced his retirement effective April 30, 2018.

Bryson is a 4th generation native-born Helenan, with a long family history of public service. He has a Masters of Public Administration from MSU-Bozeman, has served as a School District Trustee and an Adjunct Professor of Political Science, was a Bozeman City Commissioner and Gallatin County Director of Court Services, as well as served as the Lewis and Clark County Chief Administrative Officer for seven years before joining MACo in January 2017 as Deputy Director.

Bryson stated, “I’m honored to have the opportunity to advocate for the needs of County government in this important role. Having the ability to work with Harold Blattie over the past 11 months has reignited my passion for county government and the vital role MACo plays in education, advocacy, and member service delivery. Thanks to the hard work of our staff and the leadership in our organization, we are well situated for the future, and I’m honored to be able to join the team.”

“We were very fortunate to find that highly skilled person in Eric Bryson,” said MACo President, Bill Barron. “Over the last few years I have been part of filling some very significant positions where the right person came along at the right time. Eric Bryson is absolutely the right person at the right time.”

Barron added, “No one person can fill Harold Blattie’s shoes. Harold, good luck and God bless! Montana is a better place because of your dedicated service to MACo and our Counties.”

Blattie stated, “I am very pleased with the Board’s decision and know I am leaving MACo in Eric’s very capable hands as he relies on his many years of hands-on experience with local governments. In his current role as Deputy Director,

Eric has proven his ability to lead MACo into the future, responding to the challenges counties face and providing essential services.”

Blattie concluded, “It has been an honor and humbling experience to serve as MACo’s Executive Director; it is time for change. I believe Eric is the right person at the right time to lead MACo into the future.”

Bryson will assume the duties of the Executive Director on May 1, 2018.

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