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Community Jobs Forum

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Thank you very much for that welcome, Vice Chancellor White. I’m glad that so many of you could come out and join us this morning.

Never before have America’s economic policies been more important than today. Never before has the world moved faster. Opportunities come and go. Technologies force us to adapt. New challenges arrive unexpectedly.
In today’s globalized economy, Montana’s workers, farmers, and ranchers can take little for granted. But ultimately that same world holds tremendous opportunity for the products, ideas, workers, and future that is Montana.

Few people better understand the opportunities the world holds better our next speaker. Treasury Secretary Hank Paulson spent much of his career developing effective policies for the financial services industry.

He rose to become Chairman and CEO of Goldman Sachs, one of the world's most successful investment companies.

He agreed to leave that position in 2006 to become America’s Treasury Secretary. In that role, he is our nation’s top economic policymaker.
He oversees our nation's taxation, our budget, and our financial policies. Simply put, he holds many of the keys to our nation's economic future.

That economic future is increasingly a global one. Fortunately for us, Secretary Paulson knows the world. And the world knows Hank Paulson.

He has taken the lead in developing our nation's economic policy with China, the world's most important economic force in this century.

Just last week, Secretary Paulson spent several days with China's leadership. Tomorrow he will be in Washington advising our country's leaders.
Today, Secretary Paulson is with us in Montana. He is not here on a side trip. He is not here as an afterthought.

He is here because Montana’s economic success and the success of rural America are central to our nation’s economic priorities.

Secretary Paulson’s presence here today underscores that our nation’s economic policies consider not just Beijing or Boston, but also Billings, Bozeman, and Big Sandy.
I am honored that the Treasury Secretary has taken to
time to visit Montana.

I am honored that he agreed to share his ideas with us
on where Montana fits in this challenging world.

I am also very proud to have the Secretary here today in
my home. I am proud because it is clear that Montana is
not standing on the world's economic sidelines.

No, we have been busy making Montana known to the
world. The world knows us by our commodities, our
agricultural products, our manufactured goods, and our
services.
More importantly, the world knows us by the quality and specialization of these exports.

When we are not busy bringing Montana to the world, we are busy bringing the world to Montana.

In December, the Big Sky state welcomed the United States Trade Representative and her team at a round of Free Trade Agreement talks with their Korea counterparts in Big Sky.

In April, we welcomed six ambassadors, Chairman Bernanke, a dozen CEOs, and nearly 3,000 other economic stakeholders to Butte.
In May, we welcomed a delegation of 50 Chinese businessmen to Billings. This week, we welcome our nation's philanthropists to Missoula.

Montana is taking action to secure its place in the world economy and create good jobs.

Yet, while we take these steps today, we cannot lose sight of what is next.

I cannot think of anyone better placed to help us plan our next success, than Secretary Paulson.

Please join me in a warm Montana welcome for the Honorable United States Secretary of the Treasury, Hank Paulson.