

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – <DATE, YEAR>      Contact: <NAME>  
<PHONE>

U.S. Chamber Awards <chamber of commerce name> with Accredited State Chamber with Distinction designation.

<City, State> The U.S. Chamber of Commerce has awarded the <chamber of commerce name> with its Accredited State Chamber with Distinction designation for its sound policies, effective organizational procedures, and positive impact on the community.

“This rigorous review includes all aspects of a chamber’s policies, operations, and programming” said Raymond P. Towle, U.S. Chamber Vice President, Federation Relations and IOM. “When a chamber of commerce earns the Accreditation designation, it is widely recognized throughout the industry as a mark of excellence for the organization, as well as its staff and leadership. Accreditation validates a chamber as having programs that benefit its local economy and positively influence its community.”

The purpose of the U.S. Chamber's Accreditation program is to facilitate continuing excellence in the chamber industry and to foster a pro-business environment across America. In order to receive Accreditation, a chamber must meet minimum standards in their operations and programs, including areas of governance, government affairs, communications, and technology. This extensive self-review can take 6-9 months to complete.

<Insert quote from Chamber CEO on importance of this designation>

Local chambers are rated Accredited, 3-Stars, 4-Stars, or 5-Stars. State chambers are recognized as either Accredited State Chamber or Accredited State Chamber with Distinction. The final determination is made by the Accrediting Board, a committee of U.S. Chamber board members.

<Insert chamber mission statement>

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