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**MONTANA WOOL GROWERS ASSOCIATION
PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

January 3, 2017

Montana Wool Growers Association extends its congratulations to Senator Steve Daines (R-MT)

Galata, Montana --

Dave McEwen, President of the Montana Wool Growers Association, commented today on the announcement that Senator Steve Daines has been appointed to the U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry.

“On behalf of the membership of the Montana Wool Growers Association, I wish to extend my heartiest congratulations to Senator Daines on his appointment to serve on the United States Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry. This is an incredible development for Montana’s agriculture production community. As a native Montanan and an avid outdoorsman and hunter, Senator Daines understands the important role Montana’s agriculture producers play in wildlife and wildlife habitat conservation.”

“It is well known that agriculture production is Montana’s top economic generator. There are 1,338 agricultural producers in Montana who reported having an inventory of sheep and lambs in Montana. The value of wool production alone in Montana in 2015 was reported to be roughly \$3.5 million dollars. As such, it is important for Montana’s sheep and wool producers to have a Senator from Montana serving on the Congressional committee that oversees U.S. agriculture production and associated federal programs.”

“Since his election to Congress in 2012, Senator Daines has been a strong supporter of agriculture production in Montana and a true friend of Montana’s sheep industry. The Montana Wool Growers Association looks forward to working with the Senator on issues arising before the Committee, including the Farm Bill Reauthorization, agriculture research and infrastructure, particularly for programs located at Montana State University, and wildlife damage mitigation.”

The Montana Wool Growers Association was established in 1883, making it the oldest agricultural organization in the state. MWGA works to preserve and promote the sheep and wool industry in the state of Montana and nation-wide. To learn more about the Wool Growers or their membership, please contact Jesse Wallewein, Executive Secretary, at (406) 450-3429 or visit www.mtsheep.org for more information.

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