

North Dakota is Most Improved in Top Pro-Business Report

North Dakota was named one of "America's Most Pro-Business States", according to the Pollina Corporate Top 10 Pro-Business States for 2011 study. The study, considered the most comprehensive, unbiased and unvarnished by the economic development industry, is the "Gold Standard" for evaluating and ranking states.

"Our focus on job creation is supported by a dedicated and reliable workforce, a responsive state government with strong support services and low corporate and property taxes," Gov. Jack Dalrymple said. "A strong business climate stimulates job creation, which in turn leads to a stronger, more diversified economy."

North Dakota was this year's most improved state in business rankings, climbing in the rankings from #18 to #3 in the last three years.

The study is based on 32 factors controlled by state government, including taxes, human resources, education, right-to-work legislation, energy costs, infrastructure spending, workers compensation laws, economic incentive programs and state economic development efforts. Two new factors—state budget deficit and state property tax index—along with a comprehensive State Report Card have been added to this year's study.

The Pollina Corporate Top 10 Pro-Business States for 2011 are:

1. Virginia
2. Utah
3. North Dakota
4. Wyoming
5. Nebraska
6. Kansas
7. South Dakota
8. Missouri
9. South Carolina
10. Indiana

The reports states, "North Dakota is the 2011 Most Improved State because of a spectacular 15 position climb in rank from #18 in 2009 to #3 in 2011. North Dakota's Most Improved State status reflects state political leadership that has come to grips with 21st Century international competition for jobs and business investment. North Dakota's rapid improvement in their Pollina Corporate Top 10 Pro-Business States ranking reflects a solid economic development plan and implementation along with consistent political support."

"This report is more proof that our efforts are getting results," Commerce Commissioner Alan Anderson said. "The state of North Dakota has taken an aggressive approach to diversify our economy and create one of the best business climates in the nation and this report helps us to highlight this."

Additional information on the report is available at <http://www.pollina.com/top10probusiness.html>.

Members Get Ag Experience



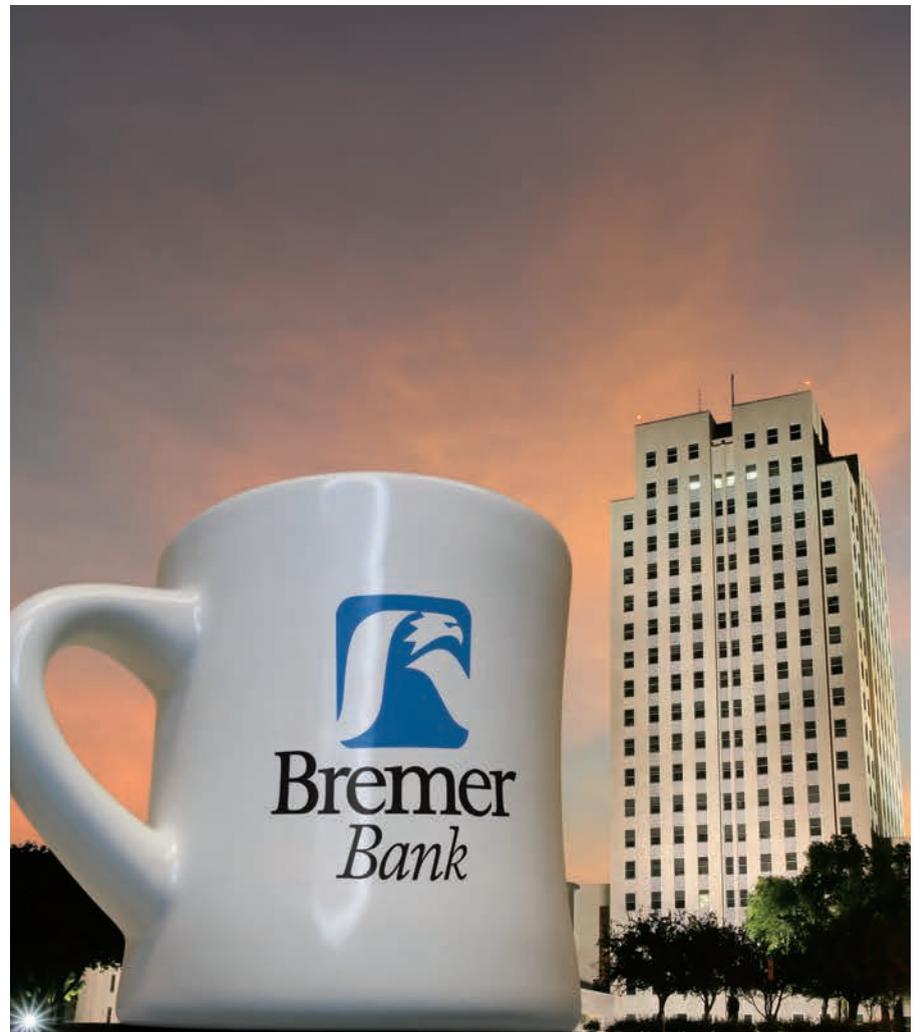
Ag Bus Tour participants view a Rolling Plains Adventure log cabin.

Chamber members boarded a bus, courtesy of Farm Credit Services, on Sept. 13 and hit the road to Rolling Plains Adventures. The tour was part of the Annual Ag Membership Mixer and was intended to give members a close glance at an ag-related business. Rolling Plains Adventures is a working ranch and retreat center owned and

operated by the Doan family.

An attractive destination, Rolling Plains Adventures offers hunting excursions, meeting spaces, retreat accommodations, a bed and breakfast and caters to other events.

The Chamber and Ag Committee thank Farm Credit Services and the Doan family for hosting the tour group.



Good morning Bismarck! We're happy to be here.

We may be new to Bismarck, but we've been around North Dakota for a long time. So you can expect big things from us. Like building area businesses, and a healthier community together. Stop by for a cup of coffee and say hello.

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