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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**“LOCAL FIRST” FOUNDATION OF NEW BUSINESS ASSOCIATION  
Mile High Business Alliance (MHBA) to focus on supporting and promoting  
locally-owned independent businesses.**

As part of the national BALLE network (Business Alliance for Living Local Economies), MHBA has begun accepting memberships from local businesses and individuals interested in fostering a stronger metro-wide economy. Local small businesses are rooted in the community, purchase more from local vendors and suppliers, and tend to grow into some of Denver’s best corporate citizens like The Tattered Cover and Rockmount Ranch.

“Businesses are the key to creating real change in our community,” says Mickki Langston, MHBA executive director. “Locally owned businesses are more competitive, innovative, and respond more quickly to the needs of a community. We are working together to adopt more sustainable business practices. We want Metro residents to know that supporting our local businesses first is a great way to improve our community, and are giving them resources to do so.”

Among the founding members, the Denver Office of Economic Development (OED) views the Mile High Business Alliance as a natural partner for the Denver Business Assistance Center (BAC) which was created by OED in 2005 as a one-stop-shop to support small businesses needing help with local, state and federal licensing, permits, and regulatory guidance. Stating the City’s commitment to this small business strategy, Mayor John Hickenlooper hinted toward helping Denver’s businesses in his recent State of the City Address, “In the coming years, we will implement a "Grow Our Own" initiative – strategically supporting business efforts to buy, hire and expand locally.”

The first initiatives of the MHBA are an interactive online directory of local businesses and a “Local First” campaign. The directory will rate the local impact of member businesses, and residents will rate the businesses and provide feedback. Both initiatives will be launched later this month.

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If you’d like more information about becoming a member of MHBA or to schedule an interview with Mickki Langston, please call (303) 359-2724 (email [mickki@milehighbusinessalliance.org](mailto:mickki@milehighbusinessalliance.org)) or visit the website at [www.milehighbusinessalliance.org](http://www.milehighbusinessalliance.org)