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**MEDIA CONTACTS:**

Ray Gonzales, president and CEO, Brighton EDC, 303.655.2154

Ken Parks, CEO, PEAK PR, 303.691.1801/Cell-303.503.0810

**An Eagle UPDATE!**

**Eagle World Preparing Its Nest in Brighton, CO --  
New Prairie Center Community Includes Mother Nature in its Plans**

**BRIGHTON, CO** – Buffalo used to cool off in the wetlands that today are occupied by Barr Lake State Park, a popular place for birders, students, instructors and others who frequent this nesting area for American bald eagles that is located on the tip of the 10<sup>th</sup> busiest airport in the world.

“Barr Lake State Park is an example of how nature can be woven into the fabric of the community,” said Ray Gonzales, president and CEO, Brighton Economic Development Corporation. In 2008, Brighton was named the #2 high-growth place of note in the U.S. by the Gadberry Group, a leading market intelligence firm.

Now, Vestas, the world leader in wind turbine system manufacturing is planning to land about 1,350 new jobs here, hatching continuing economic opportunity for this city of 35,000 people. Brighton is the county seat of Adams County, named recently by Forbes as the #3 place in the U.S. to weather the current economic storm.

The eagles at Barr Lake State Park are situated in a public sanctuary just across the highway from the 2,000-acre Prairie Center mixed-use, master-planned community that is being developed by THF Realty. The 396-acre Prairie Center shopping center already has attracted many of the biggest names in retail in an upscale setting that will include a retail village, neighborhood boutiques, family-style restaurants and entertainment.

Prairie Center also is seen by THF Realty as a focal point for visitors from around the world. THF Realty is working with the leaders of the Raptor Education Foundation, tenants at the center, the City of Brighton and other partners to develop Eagle World, a world-class raptor preserve and destination at Prairie Center.

Pilots traveling through Denver International Airport, DIA, avoid flying near Brighton in deference to the nesting eagles at Barr Lake.

Brighton is just beginning to grow.

While it has 150,000 people already in its influence area, it is the county seat of largely undeveloped Adams County, which is the size of the State of Rhode Island and wraps around much of DIA.

Running along the newer east side of the city is I-76, which shoots northeast from downtown Denver like an arrow passing between the airport and Brighton. International air travel, superior road and rail access, rising household incomes and a diverse population are attractive to employers, developers and retailers looking for growth opportunities and strategic advantage in the West.

At Brighton Crossing, located along the I-76 growth corridor, Carma Developers, which has residential communities in metro Denver and across North America, hopes that the coming of Vestas and associated new jobs will signal the restart of the local housing market, which has slowed over the past several years. “Growth prospects for the Brighton area remain strong,” points out James Schwartz, marketing manager, Carma Developers.

Vestas, with its headquarters in Denmark, was attracted to Brighton because of DIA and the rail and road network available in Brighton, which is needed to transport its wind turbine blade and nacelle (hub) systems to clients.

The Brighton Economic Development Corp. is charged with attracting major employers to the area. A native of Brighton, President and CEO Ray Gonzales returned recently to take the president and CEO position there after witnessing how much his hometown had changed for the better. “Brighton really is a place poised to take advantage of 21<sup>st</sup> Century opportunities,” he said.

To learn more about Brighton Economic Development Corp., visit [www.brightonedc.org](http://www.brightonedc.org) or phone 303.655.2155.

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