



BNCCORP

NEWS RELEASE

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BNCCORP, INC. BOARD OF DIRECTORS AMENDS THE COMPANY'S STOCKHOLDER RIGHTS PLAN

BISMARCK, ND, May 31, 2011 – BNCCORP, INC. (BNC or the Company) (OTC Markets: BNCC) today announced that on May 11, 2011, its Board of Directors approved a resolution to amend the Company's Stockholder Rights Plan ("the Rights Plan") between the Company and American Stock Transfer & Trust Company, LLC, as rights agent, to extend the final expiration date of the Rights Plan by ten years. This Amendment (Amendment No. 1) has been executed by both the Company and American Stock Transfer & Trust Company, LLC. The Rights Plan, as amended, will now expire on May 30, 2021.

The amended rights plan is intended to protect stockholder interests in the event the Company becomes the subject of a takeover initiative that the Company's board of directors believes could deny the Company's stockholders the full value of their investment. The amended rights plan is intended as a means to guard against abusive takeover tactics and is not in response to any particular proposal. This plan does not prohibit the board from considering any offer that it considers advantageous to its stockholders.

The Rights Plan, as originally adopted by the Company's Board of Directors, issued the rights in the form of a dividend on June 6, 2001, to each common shareholder of record on May 30, 2001. The rights will be exercised only if a person acquires, or announces a tender offer that would result in ownership of 15% or more of the Company's outstanding common stock. The initial exercise price is \$100 per right. A summary of the rights plan can be obtained by written request.

BNCCORP, INC., headquartered in Bismarck, N.D., is a registered bank holding company dedicated to providing banking and wealth management services to businesses and consumers in its local markets. The Company operates community banking and wealth management businesses in Arizona, Minnesota and North Dakota from 17 locations. BNC also conducts mortgage banking from 10 locations in Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, Missouri, Minnesota and Arizona.

This news release may contain "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 with respect to the financial condition, results of operations, plans, objectives, future performance and business of BNC. Forward-looking statements, which may be based upon beliefs, expectations and assumptions of our management and on information currently available to management are generally identifiable by the use of words such as "expect", "believe", "anticipate", "plan", "intend", "estimate", "may", "will", "would", "could", "should", or other expressions. We caution readers that these forward-looking statements, including, without limitation, those relating to our future business prospects, revenues, working capital, liquidity, capital needs, interest costs and income, are subject to certain risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from those indicated in the forward-looking statements due to several important factors. These factors include, but are not limited to: risks of loans and investments, including dependence on local and regional economic conditions; competition for our customers from other providers of financial services; possible adverse effects of changes in interest rates, including the effects of such changes on derivative contracts and associated accounting consequences; risks associated with our acquisition and growth strategies; and other risks which are difficult to predict and many of which are beyond our control. In addition, all statements in this news release, including forward-

looking statements, speak only of the date they are made, and the Company undertakes no obligation to update any statement in light of new information or future events.

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