

# Happy Thanksgiving

## Members and South Korean Ambassador Talk Trade

Stopping over to address the Bay Area Council on his way back to South Korea, former Prime Minister and current Ambassador Han Duk-Soo made the case for passage of the stalled Free Trade Agreement (FTA) to more than 50 business executives on Monday. Former Council Chairman Richard Rosenberg welcomed the Ambassador to a luncheon atop the Bank of America building, serving as emcee for the event. Sadly, a single issue constituency, the domestic auto industry, is holding up adoption of this FTA with one of our



closest geo-political allies and our seventh largest trading partner. According to the Ambassador, California exports alone to his country exceeded \$7.75 billion in 2008. We hope the FTA will be embraced quickly in 2010 and we will urge California's Congressional delegation to support it.

## GR Committee Presents Priorities to top Congressional Staff

The Government Relations Committee, chaired by Hanson Bridgett Managing Partner Andrew Giacomini, conducted a Federal Policy overview and presentation last week for senior staff representing almost every Bay Area member of Congress. The briefing, from Council policy staff assisted with the participation of about 50 Council member companies, was held to educate our federal delegation on our goals and objectives of the Council, heading into 2010.



Topics and issues covered included sustainability, climate change, education, transportation and infrastructure, and housing. Senators Feinstein and Boxer both sent representatives, along with Speaker Nancy Pelosi, and Representatives Zoe Lofgren, Anna Eshoo, Barbara Lee, George Miller, Jackie Speier, Lynn Woolsey and Mike Honda. These relationship-building events, similar to our trips to Washington D.C., will allow us to have an even greater impact on policy critical to our members.

## Article of the Week

Our very own Jim Wunderman is profiled in the [New York Times](#) as the "Accidental Reformer."

