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Bay Area Council Releases Statement on Speaker Nancy Pelosi's and Senator Dianne Feinstein's Inaugurations

Note to editors: Jim Wunderman is available for interviews today by phone from Washington D.C.

SAN FRANCISCO, January 4, 2007 – Today, the Bay Area Council released the below statement attributable to Jim Wunderman, President and CEO of the Bay Area Council. Mr. Wunderman is in Washington D.C. with a Bay Area Council delegation of CEOs and company representatives to help Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Senator Dianne Feinstein celebrate as they step into Bay Area and U.S. history.

“Today the Bay Area enters a golden age of political clout with the inauguration of both Speaker Pelosi and Senator Dianne Feinstein. The Bay Area has already become a hub of the global economy, and now ascends to a role as a hub of United States political power.

“We hope that our region's economic goals and political goals will now mutually reinforce each other, especially regarding innovation, to make our economy globally competitive. Our focus is on a three-point legislative drive that applies both to the Bay Area and the rest of the United States:

“First, attract the creative class. Innovative, knowledge-based workers choose to live in areas with a high quality of life, which also offer superior educational opportunities -- both for themselves and their children.

“Second, fuel the innovation pipeline. Economically successful regions in the future will be defined by distinctive public and private research facilities, a solid supply of risk capital to finance ideas generated at research facilities, and a deep pool of business management talent to run companies founded on these ideas.

“Third, improve trade capacity. The greater the global connectivity, the greater the benefit in the global economic competition. This includes physical trade through airports and seaports, as well as electronic trades of information over fiber-optic lines and wireless systems.

“The Bay Area Council and our business members will celebrate with Speaker Pelosi and Senator Feinstein in Washington D.C. today, then hope to move quickly to ensure that the Bay Area, California and the United States have the most vibrant economy possible.”

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About the Bay Area Council

Founded in 1945, the Bay Area Council (www.bayareacouncil.org) develops and drives regional public policy initiatives and researches critical infrastructure issues. Led by CEOs, the Bay Area Council presents a strong, united voice for hundreds of major employers throughout the Bay Area region whom employ more than 500,000 workers, or 1 of every six private sector employees in the Bay Area.