



NEWS RELEASE

For more information contact:
(202) 639-8500 or email@sbhc.org

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SBLC CELEBRATES AT ANNUAL MEETING

The Small Business Legislative Council (SBLC), formally organized in 1977, held its annual meeting today. Chairman Steve King, the President of the Pet Industry Distributors Association, opened the meeting with a review of the accomplishments of the organization over the last year, including SBLC's leadership in repeal of the Form 1099 requirement. He thanked the group for the opportunity to serve as Chairman and for the support provided by the member associations.

Under SBLC by-laws, Gerry Murphy, the President of the Washington Area New Automobile Dealers Association becomes Chairman. The group elected Paul Stalknecht, the President & CEO of the Air Conditioning Contractors of America, as Chairman-Elect. Jerry Heppes, the Chief Executive Officer of the Door and Hardware Institute, was elected Treasurer. Georgia Foley, the Executive Director of the Specialty Tools & Fasteners Distributors Association, was elected Secretary.

The group also added five new members to its Board of Directors. Elected to the Board were:

- Paul Bellantone, President/CEO, Promotional Products Association International
- Talbot H. Gee, EVP & COO Heating, Air-conditioning and Refrigeration Distributors Association International
- Kris Kiser, President and CEO, Outdoor Power Equipment Institute
- Michael Martin, Chief Executive Officer, National Wood Flooring Association
- Charles "Tee" Rowe, President / CEO, Association of Small Business Development Centers

Incoming Chairman Murphy pledged to continue to work on the priorities for the organization. He observed that the unique strength of the SBLC is the ability to bring together the different sectors of the economy to work on the common interests they share as small businesses.

Dr. Winslow Sargeant, the Chief Counsel for Advocacy for Small Business, addressed the group and talked about his priorities for the upcoming year.

At an earlier meeting, the SBLC Board of Directors had set SBLC's priority agenda for 2012. In 2012, SBLC will continue to pursue meaningful deficit reduction. Some combination of spending reductions and increased revenue is urgently needed to get our nation's fiscal

house in order as numerous deficit reduction commissions have recommended. Nothing should be left “off the table,” from entitlement reforms to elimination of tax expenditures that cannot be justified by cost/benefit analysis. If Congress and the President are unwilling to do so, SBLC supports the implementation of sequestration as scheduled.

SBLC will pursue making estate tax relief permanent with a 35 percent rate, \$5 million exemption (indexed) and other features such as spousal portability.

So more small business resources can be focused on productive endeavors and job creation, SBLC will pursue:

- Making improvements to existing regulatory flexibility provisions for small business, in particular, requiring full compliance with Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA) and the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act (SBREFA) by the all agencies, including the IRS.
- Enactment of a one-year freeze/moratorium on new regulations that would have a significant impact on small business, as determined in accordance with the standards set by the RFA, so that small businesses can focus on job creation.
- Encouraging regulators to provide clear and comprehensive compliance guidance and then enforce regulations so that compliant businesses do not find themselves at a competitive disadvantage.

SBLC will continue to monitor health care policy implementation to ensure it does not have an adverse, unfair impact on small business.

Small businesses thirst for consistency and certainty in economic and regulatory policy. We call on the Congress and the President to set us on a clear course early in the year and not take us to the precipice of stalemate again.

The Small Business Legislative Council is a permanent, independent coalition of 60 trade and professional associations that share a common commitment to the future of small business. Our members represent the interests of small businesses in such diverse economic sectors as manufacturing, retailing, distribution, professional and technical services, construction, transportation, and agriculture. Our policies are developed through a consensus among our membership. Individual associations may express their own views