



# NEWS RELEASE

For more information contact:  
(202) 639-8500 or [email@sbhc.org](mailto: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. Chair Gerard Murphy, the President of the Washington Area New Auto Dealers Association, opened the meeting with a review of the work of the organization over the last year, noting that resolution of two long-standing priorities, Alternative Minimum Tax relief and estate tax relief had been achieved. He thanked the group for the opportunity to serve as Chair and for the support provided by the member associations.

Under SBLC by-laws, Paul Stalknecht, the President & CEO of the Air Conditioning Contractors of America, becomes Chair. The group elected Georgia Foley, the Executive Director of the Specialty Tools & Fasteners Distributors Association, as Chair-elect. Ralph Nappi, the President of NPES - the Association for Suppliers of Printing, Publishing and Converting Technologies, was elected Treasurer. Roy Littlefield, the Executive Vice President of the Tire Industry Association, was elected Secretary.

Incoming Chair Stalknecht pledged to continue to work on the challenges for the small business community. 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.

The group heard from Shane Karr, Vice President of Federal Government Affairs for the Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers about the issues facing the automotive industry and the work within industry between groups that represent small businesses in the industry and those representing larger businesses.

At an earlier meeting, the SBLC Board of Directors had set SBLC's priority agenda for 2013 and the term "fair and balanced" is a recurring theme. In 2013, SBLC will continue to pursue meaningful deficit reduction that is fair and balanced. Comprehensive tax reform is a priority but at the same time, the outcome of the exercise must be fair and balanced. SBLC will continue to monitor health care policy implementation to ensure implementation is fair and balanced.

*The Small Business Legislative Council is a permanent, independent coalition of more than 50 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*