



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 30, 2008

For more information:
Megan Doern, 503.552.6754

Alliance Board Urges Congressional Action on Financial Crisis

Portland, Ore. – Today, the Portland Business Alliance pushed for Oregon’s members of Congress to work with their colleagues in the U.S. House and Senate to develop a plan to address the nation’s financial crisis.

“We believe the financial crisis facing this country is grave and will have an adverse impact on employers in the Portland-metropolitan region if relief is not forthcoming,” said Steve Holwerda, Chair of the Portland Business Alliance and Chief Operating Officer of Ferguson Wellman Capital Management in a letter to the Oregon Congressional delegation.

“We understand that this is a very complex issue, and the legislation placed before you this week was unprecedented. We urge you to expedite review of the issue and to work with your colleagues in Congress to devise a plan to address the nation’s financial crisis as swiftly as possible,” wrote Holwerda.

Attached are the letters from the Alliance Board Chair Steve Holwerda to Oregon’s Congressional delegation.

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**PORTLAND BUSINESS
ALLIANCE**

Leading the way

September 30, 2008

The Honorable Earl Blumenauer
United States House of Representatives
2267 Rayburn Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Blumenauer,

On behalf of the Portland Business Alliance, I am writing today to urge your immediate support for federal action that will provide the necessary liquidity to keep our nation's financial systems intact.

We believe the financial crisis facing this country is grave and will have an adverse impact on employers in the Portland-metropolitan region if relief is not forthcoming. As you know, the Alliance represents about 1,400 businesses in the Portland-metropolitan region that, in aggregate, employ more than 325,000 individuals. Many of our members, especially small and medium-sized businesses, are expressing growing concerns about access to capital to finance ongoing business operations. Continued uncertainty will undermine the vitality of many of these businesses, ultimately impacting the people they employ and our regional economy.

We understand that this is a very complex issue, and the legislation placed before you this week was unprecedented. We urge you to expedite review of the issue and to work with your colleagues in Congress to devise a plan to address the nation's financial crisis as swiftly as possible.

Please feel free to call me if I can provide you with assistance. Thank you for your consideration of our position.

Sincerely,

Steven J. Holwerda
Chair of the Board, Portland Business Alliance
Chief Operating Officer, Ferguson Wellman Capital Management, Inc.



**PORTLAND BUSINESS
ALLIANCE**

Leading the way

September 30, 2008

The Honorable Peter DeFazio
United States House of Representatives
2134 Rayburn Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative DeFazio,

On behalf of the Portland Business Alliance, I am writing today to urge your immediate support for federal action that will provide the necessary liquidity to keep our nation's financial systems intact.

We believe the financial crisis facing this country is grave and will have an adverse impact on employers in the Portland-metropolitan region if relief is not forthcoming. As you know, the Alliance represents about 1,400 businesses in the Portland-metropolitan region that, in aggregate, employ more than 325,000 individuals. Many of our members, especially small and medium-sized businesses, are expressing growing concerns about access to capital to finance ongoing business operations. Continued uncertainty will undermine the vitality of many of these businesses, ultimately impacting the people they employ and our regional economy.

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Sincerely,

Steven J. Holwerda
Chair of the Board, Portland Business Alliance
Chief Operating Officer, Ferguson Wellman Capital Management, Inc.



**PORTLAND BUSINESS
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Leading the way

September 30, 2008

The Honorable Darlene Hooley
United States House of Representatives
2430 Rayburn Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Hooley,

On behalf of the Portland Business Alliance, I am writing today to urge your immediate support for federal action that will provide the necessary liquidity to keep our nation's financial systems intact.

We believe the financial crisis facing this country is grave and will have an adverse impact on employers in the Portland-metropolitan region if relief is not forthcoming. As you know, the Alliance represents about 1,400 businesses in the Portland-metropolitan region that, in aggregate, employ more than 325,000 individuals. Many of our members, especially small and medium-sized businesses, are expressing growing concerns about access to capital to finance ongoing business operations. Continued uncertainty will undermine the vitality of many of these businesses, ultimately impacting the people they employ and our regional economy.

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Sincerely,

Steven J. Holwerda
Chair of the Board, Portland Business Alliance
Chief Operating Officer, Ferguson Wellman Capital Management, Inc.



**PORTLAND BUSINESS
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September 30, 2008

The Honorable Greg Walden
United States House of Representatives
1210 Longworth Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Walden,

On behalf of the Portland Business Alliance, I am writing today to urge your immediate support for federal action that will provide the necessary liquidity to keep our nation's financial systems intact.

We believe the financial crisis facing this country is grave and will have an adverse impact on employers in the Portland-metropolitan region if relief is not forthcoming. As you know, the Alliance represents about 1,400 businesses in the Portland-metropolitan region that, in aggregate, employ more than 325,000 individuals. Many of our members, especially small and medium-sized businesses, are expressing growing concerns about access to capital to finance ongoing business operations. Continued uncertainty will undermine the vitality of many of these businesses, ultimately impacting the people they employ and our regional economy.

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Sincerely,

Steven J. Holwerda
Chair of the Board, Portland Business Alliance
Chief Operating Officer, Ferguson Wellman Capital Management, Inc.



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Leading the way

September 30, 2008

The Honorable David Wu
United States House of Representatives
2338 Rayburn Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Wu,

On behalf of the Portland Business Alliance, I am writing today to urge your immediate support for federal action that will provide the necessary liquidity to keep our nation's financial systems intact.

We believe the financial crisis facing this country is grave and will have an adverse impact on employers in the Portland-metropolitan region if relief is not forthcoming. As you know, the Alliance represents about 1,400 businesses in the Portland-metropolitan region that, in aggregate, employ more than 325,000 individuals. Many of our members, especially small and medium-sized businesses, are expressing growing concerns about access to capital to finance ongoing business operations. Continued uncertainty will undermine the vitality of many of these businesses, ultimately impacting the people they employ and our regional economy.

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Sincerely,

Steven J. Holwerda
Chair of the Board, Portland Business Alliance
Chief Operating Officer, Ferguson Wellman Capital Management, Inc.



**PORTLAND BUSINESS
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Leading the way

September 30, 2008

The Honorable Gordon Smith
United States Senate
404 Russell Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Smith,

On behalf of the Portland Business Alliance, I am writing today to urge your immediate support for federal action that will provide the necessary liquidity to keep our nation's financial systems intact.

We believe the financial crisis facing this country is grave and will have an adverse impact on employers in the Portland-metropolitan region if relief is not forthcoming. As you know, the Alliance represents about 1,400 businesses in the Portland-metropolitan region that, in aggregate, employ more than 325,000 individuals. Many of our members, especially small and medium-sized businesses, are expressing growing concerns about access to capital to finance ongoing business operations. Continued uncertainty will undermine the vitality of many of these businesses, ultimately impacting the people they employ and our regional economy.

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Sincerely,

Steven J. Holwerda
Chair of the Board, Portland Business Alliance
Chief Operating Officer, Ferguson Wellman Capital Management, Inc.



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Leading the way

September 30, 2008

The Honorable Ron Wyden
United States Senate
230 Dirksen Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Wyden,

On behalf of the Portland Business Alliance, I am writing today to urge your immediate support for federal action that will provide the necessary liquidity to keep our nation's financial systems intact.

We believe the financial crisis facing this country is grave and will have an adverse impact on employers in the Portland-metropolitan region if relief is not forthcoming. As you know, the Alliance represents about 1,400 businesses in the Portland-metropolitan region that, in aggregate, employ more than 325,000 individuals. Many of our members, especially small and medium-sized businesses, are expressing growing concerns about access to capital to finance ongoing business operations. Continued uncertainty will undermine the vitality of many of these businesses, ultimately impacting the people they employ and our regional economy.

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