



HOMELAND SECURITY & DEFENSE BUSINESS COUNCIL

COUNCIL APPOINTS DAVID THOMAS TO THE BOARD OF ADVISORS

Date: June 14, 2007

Washington, D.C. -- The Homeland Security & Defense Business Council (the Council) announced the appointment of David Thomas as the newest addition to the Board of Advisors. Formed in 2003, the Council is a non-partisan, not-for-profit activities-based organization comprised of leading companies focused on helping the Department of Homeland Security achieve its mission.

With a membership that includes senior executives from a wide array of companies that are well experienced in homeland security and extremely dedicated to combating acts of terrorism across the globe, the Council seeks to create a nexus between the public and private sectors in order to help ensure each sector's priorities and concerns are aligned. To engage in that mission, the Council facilitates dialogue among the federal agencies responsible for homeland security and defense, the legislative branch, state and local governments, and the private sector in order to develop innovative solutions and promote the sharing of best practices across organizational boundaries.

When it comes to shaping public policy, David R. Thomas, a principal at the lobbying firm of Mehlman Vogel Castagnetti, is a triple threat. He has 12 years' seasoning in the legislative and executive branches of the federal government: first as Deputy Director of Legislative Affairs for Vice President Gore; later as the top lobbyist at the Federal Trade Commission (FTC); and most recently as Chief of Staff for Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren (CA-16). For more than four years, David served as the top advisor to Congresswoman Lofgren as she represented San Jose and the greater Silicon Valley. He developed and oversaw all legislative, political and communications initiatives for the Congresswoman.

He frequently met and strategized with constituents in the high tech community on a variety of issues including cybersecurity, tax and trade policy, intellectual property issues and innovation initiatives.

David has a long-standing interest in homeland security policy. During the 108th Congress his in-depth knowledge served Congresswoman Lofgren well as he supported her in her role as ranking member of the Homeland Security Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Science, and Research & Development. David also engaged directly with other committees including the Committees on Judiciary, Science and House Administration.

Prior to working for Congresswoman Lofgren, David was the Director of Congressional Relations at the Federal Trade Commission. There he advised the FTC Chairman and Commissioners on legislative strategy and promoted all FTC policy initiatives on Capitol Hill. Among them: online privacy issues, the principles of corporate merger reviews, Hart-Scott-Rodino reform, consumer protection initiatives and gasoline pricing investigations. He also proved his mettle by shepherding the FTC's budget requests through the appropriations process.

During the Clinton Administration, David served as a senior liaison between Vice President Gore and the U.S. Congress. Working from the Vice President's Office of Legislative Affairs, David advanced White House policy proposals on Capitol Hill. He helped create a long-term strategy for the Vice President's interactions with Members of the Senate and House of Representatives. David's management skills were tried and proven true as he traveled with Vice President Gore throughout the United States and organized the involvement of Members of Congress on all domestic trips. Attending the Kyoto Global Warming Conference, David coordinated the Vice President's travel with the large Congressional delegation in attendance.

David began his career in Washington, DC working in the office of U.S. Senator Howard Metzenbaum (D-OH).

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About the Council

The Homeland Security & Defense Business Council, a non-profit, non-partisan membership organization, has, for over four years, promoted the importance of the private sector in achieving the vision and mission for homeland security. The council sponsors a number of programs and activities designed to foster a “culture of preparedness and partnership” between the public and private sectors to protect and prepare our nation. To learn more about the Homeland Security & Defense Business Council, visit our website at www.homelandcouncil.org.