



Peggy Houlihan Departs as SBEA President

Contact:
SBEA/NSBA
Molly Brogan
202-552-2904
press@nsba.biz

Contact:
Houlihan International
Loretta Healy
781-878-8882
lhealy@hubbellgroup.com

Washington, D.C., March 8, 2010 – The National Small Business Association, the Small Business Exporters Association, a council of NSBA, and Houlihan International L.L.C. jointly announced today that SBEA President Peggy Houlihan is departing the association. Having accomplished major policy objectives of SBEA during her time as president, including national outreach to small business exporters in cooperation with the Export-Import Bank of the U.S., and working with congressional leaders and the Obama Administration to designate an Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for Small Business, Houlihan recognized a need to concentrate on her own affairs at the helm of Houlihan International as its volume of business has expanded in recent months.

“It has been a privilege to lead SBEA, working with members and building on the advocacy and outreach efforts of the past 20 years by long-term former President James Morrison and SBEA Founder and former President, the late Marty Duggan,” said Houlihan. “Recently, however, the obligations of my own business operations have increased substantially. I will continue to be a strong supporter of SBEA and will always be a dedicated advocate of expanded trade opportunities for America’s small businesses.”

Houlihan has been active with SBEA for many years, and is a veteran Washington expert on business and trade policy issues. She has been a small business owner herself since 1997 at Houlihan International, specializing in export finance, overseas investment, global business development and small-business advocacy. She also has worked as a consultant to the Export-Import Bank in developing its Trade Association Partners Program, a national small business outreach effort.

Houlihan previously served for six years as president of the Washington-based Coalition for Employment through Exports (CEE), spearheading successful legislative initiatives and leading numerous highly successful national export policy campaigns. Prior to this, she spent 15 years as a senior executive with Bechtel Corporation, representing the company in Washington on a wide range of international business and finance issues, and managing its legislative programs. Houlihan also chaired the Export Finance Task Force of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and served as president and chair of the Washington Export Council.

“We appreciate that Peggy Houlihan was able to step in on a transitional basis as SBEA president while maintaining her own entrepreneurial commitments at Houlihan International,” said Susan Corrales-Diaz, SBEA Board chairperson and president and CEO of Systems Integrated, a



California-based firm that is an active exporter. “Peggy has led SBEA during an important time as exports, and particularly small-business exports, have gained a prominent national role in the Obama Administration and on Capitol Hill.”

Seconding Corrales-Diaz’s comments, Todd McCracken, president and CEO of NSBA, said, “Peggy Houlihan has been an important leader here at SBEA, first as an active member and then as president. Her contributions have helped the expansion efforts of small business exporters at a critical time, and she will be missed.”

About the Small Business Exporters Association

SBEA is the nation’s oldest and largest nonprofit association exclusively representing small and mid-sized U.S. companies in international trade. The association has served as the international trade council for the National Small Business Association since 2002. Founded in 1937, NSBA is the nation’s oldest nonprofit advocacy organization for small business. Today it reaches more than 150,000 small companies across the U.S. Some 22,000 of these companies export U.S. goods and services, and SBEA represents these companies on behalf of NSBA. For more information, please visit NSBA (<http://www.nsba.biz/>) and SBEA (<http://www.sbea.org/>).

About Houlihan International L.L.C.

Houlihan International L.L.C., established in 1997, specializes in business development, marketing, export finance, and Washington, D.C. representation to help companies sell products and services in world markets. Based in the Washington metropolitan area, Houlihan International has direct access to U.S. government agencies and Congress, as well as financial institutions such as the World Bank. Clients range from small-to-medium sized firms to Fortune 100 companies, financial institutions, non-profit organizations and the U.S. government. Houlihan International L.L.C. has produced successful results in worldwide projects using creative business solutions. For more information, visit Houlihan International on the Web (<http://www.houlihaninternational.com/>).

###