



Message from USBLN[®] Board Chair, Beth Butler

For Immediate Release
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WASHINGTON, DC (January 14, 2011) – The following is a message from the US Business Leadership Network's (USBLN[®]) Board Chair, Beth Butler:

“As Chair of the USBLN[®], I'm writing to share that John D. Kemp, Executive Director & General Counsel, has announced that he will resign as of January 31, 2011. John will be leaving the USBLN[®] to become the President & CEO of a significant disability organization based near New York City, called Abilities!

John's departure is a great loss to our organization. He has led with imagination, insight and boldness which have provided the energy and momentum for the USBLN[®] to grow and thrive. I know that each of you would agree that John's imprint will forever remain on our organization. On behalf of the USBLN[®] Board of Directors, please join me in thanking John for his contributions, passionate commitment and achievements. We all wish him much continued success!

After consulting both with John and Jill Houghton, Deputy Executive Director, and fellow Board Officers Deb Russell and Martha Artiles regarding important transition issues, I am most pleased to appoint Jill Houghton as our Acting Executive Director for a period of 90 days effective January 18, 2011.

This appointment comes with the full support of John, to whom we are grateful for his service as our Executive Director since April, 2007. And, Jill has served as his key senior executive and been involved in all management and programmatic developments over that same period. We are truly fortunate to have Jill so deeply engaged and ready to step into the Acting Executive Director role. Her extensive executive experience including as a Washington State BLN Executive Director, followed by her service as Executive Director of the Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Advisory Panel that was housed in the Social Security Administration, allows our affiliates, members, partners and stakeholders to feel very comfortable and confident with Jill assuming this role. John will continue to assist both the Board and Jill with USBLN[®] duties and initiatives through the remainder of this month, as Jill wishes.

I am delighted to make this appointment and know you join me in welcoming and offering our full support and cooperation to Jill Houghton, our Acting Executive Director!”

Beth A. Butler
Chair
USBLN[®] Board of Directors

About the US Business Leadership Network (USBLN[®])

The US Business Leadership Network (USBLN[®]) is the national disability organization that serves as the collective voice of over 60 Business Leadership Network affiliates across North America, representing over 5,000 employers. The USBLN[®] promotes the business imperative of the preparation and inclusion of people with disabilities in the

workplace, marketplace, and supply chain while supporting the development and expansion of its BLN affiliates. The USBLN® recognizes and supports best practices in hiring and advancing employees with disabilities, marketing to consumers with disabilities, and encourages contracting with vendors with disabilities through the development and certification of disability-owned businesses. www.usbln.org

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