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Economic Development Professionals to Discuss Future of Federal Programs

FY 18 budget proposal among key issues to be reviewed by more than 250 economic developers, April 9-11

WASHINGTON, D.C. (March 31, 2017) – More than 250 economic development professionals will meet in Washington, DC from April 9-11 for FED Forum, the International Economic Development Council's (IEDC) annual conference focused exclusively on federal economic development. The International Economic Development Council (IEDC) is a non-profit membership organization serving economic developers.

The FED Forum is designed to inform and create discussions and solutions for implementing federal programs, policies and initiatives that affect economic development. Concurrent session topics will include:

- Outlook on the federal budget timeline and process
- Reshoring opportunities
- Workforce development
- Engaging elected officials
- New American manufacturing
- Access to capital
- International opportunities

After an historic election cycle, and with the ongoing fiscal year 2018 budget appropriations season, many discussions at FED Forum will include expectations of the new administration and Congress, how the shift in power will affect economic development across the country, and how communities will need to respond in order to ensure their residents know where to find business services.

“At the moment, the future of federal economic development programs is vulnerable. This is why IEDC, the largest professional membership organization for economic developers, is providing our members with information and tools they’ll need to advocate for and sustain services their community’s business owners and entrepreneurs need in order to ensure the creation of jobs is not hindered.” – Jeffrey Finkle, CEcD, CEO of the International Economic Development Council.

The FED Forum event theme, “Mapping it Out: Federal Economic Development in a New Era,” highlights the potential changes to economic development that accompany changes to the federal government. More information can be found at www.iedcevents.org/FEDForum. A list of government administrators and industry leaders are confirmed to speak, including:

- Robert D. Atkinson, President, The Information Technology and Innovation Foundation (ITIF), Washington, DC
- John Lettieri, Co-Founder, Economic Innovation Group, Washington, DC



- Andrew T. Levine, President & Chief Creative Officer, Development Counsellors International, New York, NY
- Patrick J. O'Brien, Director, Office of Economic Adjustment, United States Department of Defense, Arlington, VA
- Peggy Philbin, Acting Executive Director, SelectUSA, Washington, DC
- Dr. Phillip A. Singerman, Associate Director for Innovation and Industry Services, Office of the Director, National Institute of Standards and Technology, US Department of Commerce, Gaithersburg, MD
- Jeffrey Werling Ph.D., Assistant Director, Office of the Director, Macroeconomics Division, Congressional Budget Office, Washington, DC

Conference Dates: April 9-11, 2017

Headquarters Hotel: The Washington Court Hotel, 525 New Jersey Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20001

Registration is online at www.iedcevents.org/FEDForum/Registration.

About the International Economic Development Council

The International Economic Development Council (IEDC) is a non-profit membership organization serving economic developers. With more than 5,000 members, IEDC is the largest organization of its kind. Economic developers typically work for cities, counties, states, public private partnerships and chamber of commerce and promote economic well-being and quality of life for their communities, by creating, retaining and expanding jobs that facilitate growth, enhance wealth and provide a stable tax base. From public to private, rural to urban, and local to international, IEDC's members are engaged in the full range of economic development experience. Given the breadth of economic development work, our members are employed in a wide variety of settings including local, state, provincial and federal governments, public-private partnerships, chambers of commerce, universities and a variety of other institutions. IEDC's members create high-quality jobs, develop vibrant communities and improve the quality of life in their regions. www.iedcONLINE.org.