



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT: Marisol Molstre**  
**(515) 282-7145**  
[m.molstre@essmanassociates.com](mailto:m.molstre@essmanassociates.com)

**Amy Kline**  
**(515) 282-7145**  
[a.kline@essmanassociates.com](mailto:a.kline@essmanassociates.com)

## **Strategic legislative policies are key for continued economic growth and stability**

### ***Iowa Chamber Alliance outlines priorities for 2012***

DES MOINES, IA (November 30, 2011) – During the national economic downturn, Iowa has shown resilience thanks in part to Iowa’s improving finances, updated economic development structure and Iowa’s workforce strengths. Although Iowa has made steps to encourage growth, there are issues that still require attention. The Iowa Chamber Alliance addressed these issues today at a news conference held at the Iowa State Capitol in Des Moines. The Alliance focused on four key issues that will serve as a guide on how the Governor and Legislature can further approach economic growth in Iowa.

The Alliance, a non-partisan coalition representing 16 chambers of commerce and economic development organizations throughout the state, annually champions legislation and advocates for statewide policies that enable small and large businesses to grow and prosper, as well as attract new employers to Iowa.

“Within the last year, Iowa has made gains in encouraging economic growth including the creation of the Iowa Economic Development Authority and the Iowa Partnership for Economic Progress. This public-private partnership – born out of an Alliance concept proposal -- will allow the flexibility, nimbleness and expertise for economic development in Iowa,” said Ken Anderson, President of the Iowa Chamber Alliance and President of the Marshalltown Area Chamber of Commerce. “However, despite this success, certain issues must again be addressed. This includes commercial and industrial property taxes, economic development tools, transportation and infrastructure investment and education reform – all of these are priorities for the Iowa Chamber Alliance.”

The Alliance called upon the Iowa Legislature and the Governor to address important issues in 2012 that would positively impact Iowa’s business climate.

### **Priority Issues**

#### ***Taxes***

The Alliance supports improving the business tax climate including commercial and industrial

-more-

property tax relief, efforts to simplify and reduce corporate income taxes and flatten and streamline the personal income tax code. As part of commercial and industrial property tax reform, the Alliance supports addressing unfunded mandates, pensions and other measures to help offset rollback effects on local governments.

### ***Economic Development***

The newly formed Iowa Economic Development Authority and the Iowa Partnership for Economic Progress needs a new set of economic development incentives and tools to further economic development for the whole state. Existing incentives should be reviewed for effectiveness as well.

### ***Transportation & Infrastructure***

Iowa has great needs for updating and repairing its transportation infrastructure. Quality roads are central to economic growth. The Alliance supports new or alternative sources of revenue, including a fuel tax increase, provided the cap on TIME-21 is removed.

### ***Workforce Development***

Comprehensive education reform is critical for Iowa's economic growth from three perspectives: preparing the workforce for global challenges and competition, ensuring a high quality of life and providing the best opportunities for Iowa's children.

### ***General Business***

The Alliance also recommends that rules and regulations should be evaluated regularly for necessity, effectiveness, cost-efficiency, enforceability and financial impact. Regulatory stability and responsiveness is a critical component of the business climate. Incentives to help small employers adopt wellness and prevention programs are also supported by the Alliance.

For more information about the Alliance's positions and legislative agenda, please visit the Web site at [www.iowachamberalliance.com](http://www.iowachamberalliance.com).

### ***About the Iowa Chamber Alliance***

The Iowa Chamber Alliance's mission is to put forth and enact an agenda to grow the state's economy through support of proactive programs that stimulate economic growth opportunities for the entire state and its residents. The Alliance members include chambers and economic development organizations in: Ames, Burlington/West Burlington, Cedar Rapids, Council Bluffs, Des Moines, Dubuque, Fort Dodge, Iowa City, Marshalltown, Mason City, Muscatine, the Quad Cities, Sioux City and Waterloo/Cedar Falls.

###