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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CHAMBER DELEGATION CHAMPIONS REGIONAL BUSINESS PRIORITIES IN D.C.

160 business and community leaders advocate for trade, education, immigration, tax reform, healthcare

SAN DIEGO (September 20, 2017) – A binational delegation of 160 San Diego and Baja California business leaders, community partners, and public officials will visit Capitol Hill September 24 to 27 as part of the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce’s 11th Annual Mission to Washington, D.C. This marks the largest delegation the Chamber has led to the nation’s capital. This is the largest delegation the Chamber has led to the nation’s capital.

Delegates will meet with federal leaders, agency officials and policy influencers to advance policies that create jobs and economic growth. This trip is unique. No other Chamber leads a delegation to D.C. of this size with both U.S. and Mexican participants. The trip includes meeting tracks specific to the region’s various core industries including healthcare, education, transportation and infrastructure, military and veterans, and housing and urban development.

“Much of what’s on the national agenda – from immigration and trade policies to research funding and healthcare – has a direct impact on San Diego,” said Jerry Sanders, Chamber President and CEO. “It is important our leaders at the national level hear directly from the business community on the issues that matter and how the policies they are crafting affect our unique business landscape.

“Bringing a large, diverse group of regional business-minded leaders to the capital makes a significant statement and underscores our region’s priorities on the policies that are critical to the business growth and the creation of jobs in San Diego.”

Education Secretary Betsy DeVos will host a meeting with delegates representing the region’s education sector to discuss key policies impacting education in the country.

With the U.S.-Mexico relationship a focus of national attention, the Chamber delegation will push for several international trade and cross-border priorities including NAFTA, immigration, and border infrastructure policies and projects. A congressional panel discussion on trade, moderated by Congressman Darrell Issa, will provide an opportunity for our region to relay the importance of free and fair trade agreements to members of Congress outside San Diego. Panel participants are Reps. Joaquin Castro (D-TX), Henry Cuellar (D-TX), Will Hurd (R-TX), and Scott Peters (D-CA).

Delegation participants will also meet with Mexican Ambassador Geronimo Gutierrez, Customs and Border Protection, and the Department of Homeland Security on issues ranging from the construction of a rail port at Tecate to support for pro-immigration policies, Otay Mesa II Port of Entry, and a consolidated North American Trusted Traveler program.

Also on the agenda: urging support for a simpler tax reform code that is more manageable and allows business to be less reliant on outside professional sources to prepare and manage filings.

To provide an inside look at Washington's unpredictable political environment, delegates will hear from:

- Tony Fabrizio, Republican Pollster & Strategist, and Principal of Fabrizio, Lee & Associates
- Anna Palmer, Senior Washington Correspondent and co-author of POLITICO's Playbook
- Rob Engstrom, National Political Director for U.S. Chamber of Commerce

Attending are six mayors from the U.S.-Mexico border region:

- San Diego Mayor Kevin Faulconer
- Tijuana Mayor Juan Manuel Gastélum
- Imperial Beach Mayor Serge Dedina
- Mexicali Mayor Gustavo Sanchez
- Nogales Mayor David Galindo
- Rosarito Mayor Mirna Rincon Vargas

Also attending are:

- San Diego City Councilmembers David Alvarez, Barbara Bry, Chris Cate, Myrtle Cole, Georgette Gomez, Mark Kersey, Chris Ward, and Lorie Zapf
- Tijuana City Councilmember Ivette Casillas
- U.S. Consul General in Tijuana William Ostick
- State Assemblymember Todd Gloria
- County Supervisors Ron Roberts and Greg Cox
- Representatives from the Port of San Diego, San Diego State University, San Diego Regional Airport Authority, Chosen Foods, Kaiser Permanente, COX Communications, and QUALCOMM, among others

About The San Diego Regional Chamber

The San Diego Regional Chamber is the hub for connections and collaboration among the regional business community, and uses that clout to advocate for public policies and candidates that support economic growth and the creation of jobs for all businesses. As the largest Chamber on the West Coast, representing approximately 2,500 businesses and an estimated 300,000 jobs, the San Diego Regional Chamber is fighting to make San Diego the most business-friendly region in California. For more information, please visit SDChamber.org or call 619-544-1300.

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A complete trip agenda is available by request. Please contact Alison Phillips.