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**Public Affairs Veterans Launch New Bipartisan Consortium – E Street Partners**

*Group will Provide Comprehensive Government Relations and Public Affairs Capabilities*

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Feb. 6, 2014) – Veteran lobbyists John Runyan, Craig Brightup, Thad Huguley and Rafe Morrissey have teamed-up to form [E Street Partners](#), a new public affairs consortium. The group will operate from the Capitol Hill headquarters of Runyan Public Affairs, which is located at 8 E Street, SE in Washington, D.C. Patrick Dorton and Beth Dozier from [Rational 360](#) – an independent strategic communications and digital agency co-founded by Dorton – will support the consortium by offering communications services to its clients through Rational 360.

The new public affairs consortium is equipped to provide clients with an expanded range of services, including legislative and executive branch lobbying, public relations and integrated communications services, coalition-building, grassroots advocacy, and strategic political action and PAC management services. Through the consortium, clients have the ability to customize public affairs campaigns – both large and small – and access a roster of experienced professionals to address short- and long-term challenges.

“E Street Partners combines one-on-one attention with integrated services to target the most complex public affairs challenges – and get results,” Runyan said. “Clients can turn to us for quick thinking and creative, comprehensive solutions from a strong bench of experienced policy veterans.”

Together, members of the consortium draw upon decades of public affairs experience. They have worked at the highest levels of federal and state government – including in the U.S. House and Senate – at federal regulatory agencies, and as in-house government relations and communications professionals for leading corporations and associations.

The consortium consists of the following members:

**John Runyan**

John Runyan has been a leader in the government affairs profession for more than 30 years. Prior to starting his own company, Runyan Public Affairs, John spent over a decade at International Paper, most recently as senior manager of federal government relations. He has developed and run corporate and association political action committees, led multi-industry business coalitions, and for six years chaired

the BIPAC Prosperity Project, a major business community grassroots and voter education program. John began his career as a staff member in the U. S. Senate and is a graduate of The George Washington University. Mr. Runyan's current clients include R.R. Donnelley, The Coalition for Transportation Productivity, The Data Transparency Coalition, Rayonier, Inc., and the Envelope Manufacturers Association.

### **Craig Brightup**

Craig Brightup, CEO of The Brightup Group LLC, began his career at the FEC and has expertise in many policy areas. His in-depth knowledge of OSHA and EPA rules, as well as immigration issues for small business, has attracted clients including the US Chamber of Commerce. Fortune Small Business magazine named Mr. Brightup to its "Power 30" list of influential insiders in the nation's capital. Mr. Brightup is a former Director of Congressional Relations for the Federal Trade Commission and his current clients include the National Roofing Contractors Association and Association of Nutrition & Foodservice Professionals. He is a graduate of Penn State University and studied Public Administration at The American University.

### **Thad Huguley**

Building on his former experience as a Congressional Chief of Staff and campaign operative, Mr. Huguley specializes in congressional and executive branch lobbying and advocacy. His current and former clients include large corporations such as Stephens, Rayonier, Novo Nordisk, and Louisiana Pacific; advocacy groups like The Nature Conservancy, Environmental Defense Fund, and Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids; and small business and non-profit organizations such as Belmont University, Nashville Health Care Council, and Innovative Signals Technology. Mr. Huguley majored in Journalism at the University of Alabama and received a Master's degree in American History from The American University.

### **Rafe Morrissey**

Rafe Morrissey's public affairs experience has focused on a broad range of areas including postal affairs, consumer privacy, labor and employment law, telecommunications and internet privacy issues. During his 17 years in government relations, Mr. Morrissey has represented American Business Media, the Newspaper Association of America, Cyren Call, Nextel and many others. Mr. Morrissey currently represents Hallmark Cards, Inc. and the Greeting Card Association. He is a graduate of the University of Georgia.

### **Patrick Dorton & Beth Dozier – Rational 360**

Patrick Dorton and Beth Dozier will provide E Street Partners' clients with strategic communications services through Rational 360, a firm co-founded by Mr. Dorton and fellow Rational 360 partner Don Marshall. For more than a decade, Rational 360 has specialized in developing and executing strategic communications programs in ever-changing business and regulatory environments. The firm has created multifaceted advocacy campaigns and rapid response operations for Fortune 500 companies, has executed strategic marketing initiatives and digital campaigns for consumer and business-to-business brands, and has worked with public and independent companies on executive positioning and visibility.

### **Contact**

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