



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**CONNECT Hires Capitol Hill Veteran Timothy Tardibono to lead D.C. office**

SAN DIEGO, California (April 20, 2010) – CONNECT is pleased to introduce Timothy Tardibono as its new Director of Government Affairs & Chief Counsel in its Washington D.C. office.

Tardibono brings to CONNECT significant federal policy expertise, having most recently served as legal counsel to Senator Tom Coburn in the areas of intellectual property, trade, antitrust, workforce development, telecommunications and regulatory affairs. Prior to his service in the Senate, Tardibono worked in state government as the Assistant General Counsel for the Oklahoma State Department of Health. In this role, Tardibono conducted litigation and negotiated settlements in regulatory enforcement cases and developed an advanced understanding of regulatory processes. He spent two years as a policy analyst to Oklahoma Governor Frank Keating's Health and Human Services Secretary wherein he developed a wealth of knowledge and experience in medical and life science issues that rounds out his policy portfolio.

"CONNECT received applications from many qualified people for this new role of representing San Diego innovation issues in Washington," says CONNECT CEO Duane Roth. "In the end though, Tim stood out as an individual who had both the professional background and Hill experience that I believe will propel our efforts in D.C. from day one. He has a demonstrated history of success in negotiating and impacting legislation, and possesses a keen understanding of multiple innovation issues and their impact on the entrepreneurial climate. These two factors, combined with the advanced legal and political understanding that Tim brings from over a decade of service in government, will prove essential to the success of CONNECT's federal policy goals in Washington D.C."

Earlier this year, CONNECT organized a selection committee of member organizations and associates based in Washington to assist in the recruitment and hiring of its Director of Government Affairs & Chief Counsel, including: Todd Gillenwater, Vice President, Public Policy, California Healthcare Institute; Janet Lambert, Vice President, Government Relations, Life Technologies; and Monique Rodriguez, Senior Manager, Government Affairs, Qualcomm. The committee was unanimous in the selection of Mr. Tardibono.

"I think very highly of Tim," says Doug Farry, Partner at McKenna Long & Aldridge LLP and a member of the CONNECT Public Policy Committee. "He has a reputation as a respected congressional staffer who is particularly attuned to small business needs. I met Tim a few years ago and have worked with him substantively on several issues of relevance to CONNECT members - particularly around patent reform."

As the Government Affairs Director & Chief Counsel, Tardibono will be responsible for managing CONNECT's federal issue portfolio, including but not limited to, intellectual property legislation, workforce development (visas), regulation (FDA, EPA, FTC), trade and antitrust, investment capital and incentives (SBIR/STTR, tax) and federal research funding. In this new role, Tardibono will initiate and oversee activities that promote CONNECT's role as an effective advocate for start-up companies addressing innovation issues with the Administration, Congress, trade organizations and other political professionals. He will develop and manage strategies to influence federal legislative

and regulatory professionals that advance the needs of the innovator and serve the innovation community of San Diego.

Tardibono said, "Congress and the Administration have many opportunities to help spur the innovation process. I am certain our new office can be a catalyst in highlighting San Diego's innovation story to Beltway policy leaders."

Tardibono will work in partnership with the CONNECT Board of Directors, Policy Committee and CEO to continue identifying policy priorities that impact the commercialization process. He will also collaborate with local trade organizations such as BIOCUM, San Diego Chamber, EDC and others to create a united front and coordinated message on issues that are important to the region.

Says Roth, "I am confident that Tim will be a tremendous asset to CONNECT and the San Diego innovation community as we work together to continue to advance the inventor's agenda and expand our influence in Washington. I am so pleased to have him on board."

### **About CONNECT**

CONNECT is a nonprofit organization dedicated to creating and sustaining the growth of innovative technology and life science businesses in San Diego. Since 1985, CONNECT has assisted in the formation and development of over 2,000 companies and is widely regarded as the world's most successful regional program linking inventors and entrepreneurs with the resources they need for success. CONNECT focuses on research institution support, business creation and development, entrepreneurial learning, access to capital, public policy advocacy, awards, recognition and networking. There are more than 40 organizations in 18 countries that have adopted the CONNECT model, including New York City, the UK, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Australia and India.