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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Monument Policy Group Announces Opening of Seattle Office**

Seattle, Washington – Monument Policy Group, LLC, a nationally-recognized consulting and lobbying firm headquartered in Washington, D.C., today announced that it is expanding its reach and will open an office in Seattle, Wash., to enhance its client services for Pacific Northwest companies.

In addition to providing general representation before government agencies, the firm specializes in issues related to trade, international affairs, tax, technology, and homeland security. By opening a Seattle office, Monument Policy Group will expand its ability to combine substance, relationships and expertise to provide strategic counsel concerning political and policy issues.

Heading up the new Seattle office will be Timothy Punke, who will split his time between the firm's Washington and Seattle offices. Prior to his private sector experience, Tim served as the Chief International Trade Counsel for the Senate Finance Committee and its current Chairman, Senator Max Baucus. Tim worked in the Clinton Administration at the White House National Economic Council, K&L Gates, and Dewey Ballantine. Tim also served as a clerk for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit which has jurisdiction over Washington State.

"I am both honored and pleased to be leading Monument Policy Group's new Seattle office as it offers us the unique opportunity to provide our Northwest clients with on-the-ground capabilities in Seattle," Tim said. "The Monument Policy Group has a strong history of providing our clients with top-notch lobbying, communications, business-to-government marketing, political development and strategic counsel services, and this new endeavor only increases our ability to do so. Companies in Washington State and the broader Pacific Northwest are directly impacted by what happens in Washington, D.C., and our ability to bring knowledge of local trends and priorities to the attention of federal policymakers will be enhanced greatly by a permanent presence in Seattle."

Monument's Northwest clients include Digimarc, Microsoft, the National Center for APEC, REI, Weyerhaeuser, and Zillow.com. Monument's broader client list includes the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, Eli Lilly and Company, the National Business Travel Association, Sybase, the Travel Industry Association, and XM Satellite Radio.

“As we expand our services on the West Coast, we are poised to build on our reputation of excellence in public policy,” said C. Stewart Verdery, Jr., partner and founder of Monument Policy Group. “Our work inside the Beltway has given us the foundation and expertise to launch this venture in Seattle, and we look forward to engaging in and shaping the debate on a wide range of issues for our Northwest clients, both old and new.”

This month, Monument Policy Group also added two new members to its team, Partner Jessica Herrera-Flanigan, formerly Staff Director of the House Homeland Security Committee, and Rich Thomas, formerly Legislative Director for Rep. Bill Pascrell (D-NJ).

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Monument Policy Group, LLC, provides clients with unique insight and reach into how federal public policy is created and influenced by the U.S. Congress, the executive branch and other key stakeholders. Honed by decades of high-level experience in all branches of government and in the private sector, Monument’s partners are ideally positioned to advise and shepherd the interests of clients spanning a wide array of business sectors. Monument Policy supports the public policy outreach efforts of clients seeking timely, substantive knowledge about the “who,” “what,” “why” and “how” of federal public policy.

Monument Policy’s partners are best recognized for their strategic expertise and ability to influence the policy debate. They have deep relationships on both sides of the political aisle and throughout the executive branch and are influential not only within government, but with foreign governments, the media and think-tank communities. In particular, Monument Policy’s partners are respected in Washington for their proficiency in the security, privacy, technology and international trade fields.