



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**CORNERSTONE GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS ANNOUNCES NATIONAL
PUBLIC AFFAIRS EXPANSION**

Paul, Centers to lead initial team in Des Moines, building on existing operations in Washington and 10 state offices

(WASHINGTON, D.C.) – Cornerstone Government Affairs, a leading bipartisan government affairs firm, will expand client services to include public affairs and strategic communications through the launch of Cornerstone Public Affairs. Cornerstone has hired two communications veterans to lead the business expansion. Matt Paul will join Cornerstone as Senior Vice President for Public Affairs and Jimmy Centers will join as Vice President of Strategic Communications.

"Cornerstone's business plan includes meeting the growing demand for integrated services, including traditional government relations, regulatory affairs and communications," said Geoff Gonella, the firm's president and managing director. "Since our inception, Cornerstone Government Affairs has been focused on achieving results for our clients. The launch of Cornerstone Public Affairs positions us for continued growth while also allowing us to better serve our clients across the country."

Paul most recently served as Chief of Staff to Democratic Vice Presidential candidate Tim Kaine of Virginia. He also served as Iowa State Director for Hillary Clinton's winning Iowa Caucus campaign. A longtime aide to Secretary Tom Vilsack, Paul worked in both the Governor's Office and at the US Department of Agriculture. Paul managed former Senator Tom Harkin's final re-election campaign in 2008.

Centers served as the Press Secretary and Communications Director for Iowa Governor Terry Branstad and Lieutenant Governor Kim Reynolds. Prior to that role, Centers served as Communications Director on a congressional campaign and has other Republican political experience in state and national races. He founded Message Delivered, a communications and public affairs firm based in Des Moines, Iowa.

"Cornerstone has always been known as a firm where clients receive senior-level, bipartisan counsel," said Campbell Kaufman, the firm's director for state government relations. "In 2008, we took our model to the states because we recognized that Cornerstone could advance our clients' interests not just in Congress, but also at statehouses across the country. Now, with the launch of Cornerstone Public Affairs, our clients will again benefit by receiving additional services at both the state and federal level."

Founded in 2002, Cornerstone Government Affairs is a full-service, bipartisan firm specializing in government relations and lobbying. Collectively, Cornerstone's staff of more than 60 professionals across 11 offices have significant experience working on Capitol Hill, federal agencies, state government and the private sector.

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Cornerstone Government Affairs, Inc. is a full-service, bipartisan public affairs firm with 60+ professionals and offices in Washington, DC, Annapolis, MD, Atlanta, GA, Austin, TX, Baton Rouge, LA, Chicago, IL, Des Moines, IA, Houston, TX, Jackson, MS, Richmond, VA, and Springfield, IL. Cornerstone represents a diverse group of clients from myriad industries and sectors, and maintains expertise in a wide range of issue areas, including agriculture, cyber security, defense, education, energy, health, homeland security, international affairs, tax policy, telecommunications, and transportation and infrastructure. For more information, please visit Cornerstone's website at www.cgagroup.com.

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