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On the Eve of Obama's State of the Union Address, Dean Zerbe Cautions the Administration: Tax Policy and Enforcement That Harm Small and Medium Business Damage the Economic Engine of our Country and Can Only Hinder Recovery.

Houston, January 27, 2010

Dean Zerbe, alliantgroup's National Managing Director and former Tax Counsel and Senior Counsel on the Senate Finance Committee, is today holding meetings on the west coast with CPA firms and business leaders as part of his ongoing mission to understand and carry to Washington the challenges faced by small and medium businesses in complying with tax laws and in planning for the future in an uncertain economic and regulatory environment.

Anticipating the President's State of the Union Message, Dean Zerbe took a few minutes to compose a few words of caution for the Administration:

“For small and medium businesses to start creating new jobs, they are going to need cash in hand from immediate tax cuts and easier access to credit. The administration's tax proposals for small and medium business, while well-meaning, fall well short of what is needed to help create new private sector jobs.

“The administration and Congress should include in the Jobs bill, legislation that will provide retroactive tax relief for business, allowing businesses to get immediate dollars in their pockets. A good place to start would be expanding business tax credits so that small businesses can take advantage of the same tax incentives available for big business. It is inexcusable that the tax laws allow IBM to take full advantage of business tax credits such as the Research and Development Credit or the Dependent Care Credit, but these same tax breaks are not available for a huge number of small and medium businesses due to limitations from the alternative minimum tax. A commonsense change in the tax laws that made these businesses credits available for all business, not just big business, would not only be fair but would also provide money for new jobs to these small and medium businesses.

“Hand-in-hand with providing tax breaks for small and medium business, the administration needs to take steps immediately to have the IRS provide better services and work with

businesses. Business owners are struggling to deal with burdensome and confusing requests from the IRS, instead of spending that time and money expanding their business and creating new jobs. The IRS is issuing huge numbers of tax liens and may not be taking into account the devastation these liens have on access to credit and the impact on business owners and their employees. In this struggling economy, the administration needs to ensure that the taxman is part of the solution, not part of the problem.”

alliantgroup is the nation's premier provider of specialty tax services, working with businesses and their CPA firms to identify and claim the government-sponsored tax credits, incentives, and deductions (such as the R&D tax credit and export incentives among others) that help businesses compete and thrive. The company also aggressively advocates the interests of small and medium businesses in Washington, while keeping its clients current regarding the tax issues that affect them. Dean Zerbe is a frequent author and speaker who meets continually with leading local and regional accounting firms and business leaders, as part of alliantgroup's ongoing effort to bring the concerns of small and medium business to Congress and the IRS.

Dean Zerbe is available for interview and comment and can be reached at dean.zerbe@alliantgroup.com.

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