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Commerce Secretary Evans Talks Trade and Economy, Honors Alaska Businesses for Export Achievement

Commerce Secretary Don Evans today highlighted the Bush Administration's trade and economic growth agenda by presenting the U.S. Commerce Department's Export Achievement Certificate to four Alaska businesses. The award recognizes businesses that have benefited from the export services of the department's Commercial Service to make their first export sale or open new foreign markets.

"Exporting is a great way to achieve President Bush's first goal – economic growth. Exports create business opportunities and generate high-paying jobs, bringing greater prosperity," said Evans. "We are very pleased with the success these Alaskan companies have had internationally, and the Commerce Department looks forward to continuing to help U.S. firms increase their exports."

AeroMap U.S., of Anchorage, was presented an Export Achievement Certificate winning a contract for aerial photographic work in Canada. This small business provides airborne/satellite imaging and analysis, topographic mapping and other services. The Alaska Export Assistance Center advised the company on the correct procedures for obtaining necessary permits under NAFTA to work in Canada.

Sealaska Timber Corporation (STC) is a forest products company in Juneau. For 23 years, STC has successfully exported to Japan, South Korea, Taiwan and Canada. The company was honored for their successful efforts to add China as a new market for their products last year. The Alaska Export Assistance Center in Anchorage provides STC with trade leads, market information and planning and assistance regarding import regulations.

Trident Seafoods Corporation, of Anchorage, is one of the leading U.S. exporters of seafood. It was honored for exporting millions of dollars of American harvested and processed seafood to markets around the world. The Commerce Department provided export assistance to Trident for many years.

VECO Corporation, of Anchorage, provides engineering, procurement, construction, operations and maintenance services to the mining, oil and gas, petrochemical, refinery and pharmaceutical industries. The company was recognized for expanding its international operations to include Canada, India and the Middle East. The Alaska Export Assistance Center has worked with VECO for over ten years, providing workshops, seminars and targeted market research to the company.

Last year, the U.S. Export Assistance Center in Anchorage facilitated over \$11 million in export sales from area businesses. The center is part of the global network of the U.S. Commercial Service, a Commerce Department agency that helps small and medium-sized U.S. businesses sell their products and services globally. The U.S. Commerce Department's Commercial Service network includes 107 domestic offices and more than 160 international posts. In 2002, the U.S. Commercial Service helped U.S. businesses generate export sales worth more than \$23 billion. For more information on the U.S. Commercial Service, call the U.S. Export Assistance Center in Anchorage at 907-271-6237 or visit www.export.gov/comm_svc/.

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