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**MICROSOFT'S JACK KRUMHOLTZ DEPARTS AFTER 14 YEARS  
*FRED HUMPHRIES TO LEAD COMPANY'S DC GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS OFFICE***

WASHINGTON, D.C. – December 5, 2008 – Jack Krumholtz, Managing Director Federal Government Affairs, has decided to leave Microsoft Corp. to pursue a new chapter in his career. Krumholtz launched Microsoft's federal government affairs activities in D.C. in March 1995, and built the company's presence into one of the industry's leading voices in the nation's capital.

Fred Humphries, currently a Managing Director at Microsoft, will now become Managing Director Federal Government Affairs. Since 2000, Humphries has led Microsoft's State Government Affairs team, overseeing the company's policy and political outreach to our nation's governors, mayors and local elected officials. Humphries is currently based at Microsoft's headquarters in Redmond, Washington, but will relocate to Washington, D.C., where he will replace Krumholtz in January.

"Jack has shepherded Microsoft through a critical time of change," said Microsoft Chief Executive Officer Steve Ballmer. "We look forward to working with the new Congress and Administration to harness the power of technology to open up government to its citizens and help meet the difficult challenges facing the country."

Over the past 14 years, Krumholtz oversaw the development of Microsoft's federal relations function, leading a bipartisan team of Democrats, Republicans and policy experts. During his tenure, Microsoft has become a key resource for policymakers and their staff as they work to understand the often complex and technical issues related to intellectual property, telecom, trade and high-skilled immigration reform, and Krumholtz has testified before Congress on numerous occasions. He has been considered one of the top corporate representatives in Washington, D.C.

"Jack is leaving Microsoft after a long and distinguished career at the company, and though we are disappointed to see him go, we share in his excitement as he takes on new challenges in the coming months," said Pamela Passman, Microsoft Corporate Vice President Global Corporate Affairs. "With Jack's decision to leave Microsoft, Fred was the right choice to assume the role because of his longtime ties and strong relationships in D.C. and his success in collaborating with state and local governments across the country on technology policy issues."

Humphries worked closely with U.S. governors leading Microsoft's state government affairs team.

"Microsoft has been an important partner in Kansas in promoting economic growth, and Fred Humphries has been a key part of that effort," said Kansas Governor Kathleen Sebelius. "We look forward to continuing our work with Microsoft to help Congress and President-elect Obama's administration solve the critical problems facing our country."

Humphries has almost twenty years of state, federal, campaign and association experience, and his professional background includes serving as Senior Policy Advisor for Congressman Richard Gephardt's Leadership Staff in Washington, D.C. in the Office of the Minority Leader. He also served as Southern Political Director for the Democratic National Committee, and as Chief of Staff for Congressman Sanford Bishop of Georgia. Additionally, he worked on the staff of Governor Ned Ray McWherter of Tennessee and is the former Executive Director of Public Policy for U.S. West Communications. Humphries also has substantial experience in national politics, serving on the staffs of four presidential campaigns.

Humphries is a graduate of Morehouse College and Temple University School of Law. He lives in the State of Washington with his wife and two children.

Founded in 1975, Microsoft (Nasdaq "MSFT") is the worldwide leader in software, services and solutions that help people and businesses realize their full potential.

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