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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Willett tenders resignation**

*Final day March 11; to lead economic development efforts in Mason City/Clear Lake area*

Fairfield (IOWA) - Brent Willett, Executive Director of the Fairfield Economic Development Association and Fairfield Area Chamber of Commerce, on Monday tendered his resignation to both groups. His last day will be March 11.

Willett will assume the position of Executive Director of the North Iowa Corridor Economic Development Corporation, a regional economic development partnership including the cities of Mason City and Clear Lake and Cerro Gordo County. His responsibilities will involve the coordination of economic development activities in the region, which encompasses a population of approximately 45,000.

“It has been the utmost pleasure and experience of my life to serve at the pleasure of the members and boards of directors of the Fairfield Economic Development Association and Fairfield Area Chamber of Commerce,” Willett said. “With enormous support from a tremendous staff and two supportive boards, we’ve managed, I think, in the last four years to deliver value to the Fairfield business and greater community through business support and development, to improve both organizations financially and administratively and position them for ongoing, consistent success and stability moving forward.”

“Brent’s leadership has helped transform FEDA into a professional economic development force for the greater Fairfield community,” said Pat Doyle, FEDA President. Doyle pointed to \$28 million in capital investment and the creation of 350 new jobs secured through FEDA’s facilitation of more than \$4.5 million in structured federal, state and local incentives having occurred during Willett’s tenure. “From new and robust business retention and expansion programming to newly embedded and dynamic business attraction strategies to fresh entrepreneurial development programming, the FEDA suite of services to this community has grown and improved during Brent’s tenure and only stands to further improve from here.”

“The Fairfield Area Chamber of Commerce stands stronger than it perhaps ever has today, and Brent’s leadership of the organization over the last four years has had a lot to do with it,” said Fred McElwee, Chamber President. “Brent has had true commitment and passion in serving the Fairfield Chamber, qualities which have provided excellence in leadership and vision for our community.”

McElwee added, “Though we regret to see him go, from here, we are exceptionally well-positioned for continued growth and organizational improvement in the years to come.” He pointed 19% membership growth, substantial financial gains and widespread organizational efficiencies under Willett as evidence of strength in position as well as to the recently-released 2013 strategic plan.

Doyle and McElwee indicated that board-level transition discussions will begin at once and a search for a new executive director would begin immediately. “In the coming weeks, I will be working closely with both boards of directors to set the affairs of both organizations in order to provide for an orderly and effective management transition for both organizations,” Willett said.

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