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Dahlkemper Joins Fiscally Conservative Blue Dog Coalition

Washington, DC - Today, the fiscally conservative Democratic Blue Dog Coalition welcomed to their ranks Representative Kathy Dahlkemper (D-PA), a small business owner with a proven commitment to fiscal responsibility and accountability. Rep. Dahlkemper's addition to the Coalition brings the group's membership to 52.

"Representative Dahlkemper has firsthand knowledge of the struggles facing small business owners and employees in today's struggling economy," said **Representative Charlie Melancon** (D-LA), Blue Dog Co-Chair for Communications. "Having built a thriving business herself, she will undoubtedly be an asset to the Blue Dogs as we work to restore fiscal responsibility to government and put pay-as-you-go rules back into law."

"Kathy Dahlkemper is a strong voice for fiscal responsibility and we are proud to welcome her to the Blue Dog Coalition," said **Representative Stephanie Herseth Sandlin** (D-SD), Blue Dog Co-Chair for Administration. "Her demonstrated commitment to the core principles of the Blue Dogs will enhance our efforts to reign in federal spending and get our fiscal house in order."

"I am very pleased to join the Blue Dog Coalition, a group that shares my strong belief in fiscal discipline and responsibility," said Rep. Dahlkemper. "If Pennsylvania's families and small businesses have to live within their means, Congress should have to as well. Our children's future cannot be built upon a foundation of debt."

"I look forward to working closely with my colleagues in the Blue Dog Coalition to put pay-as-you-go back on the books to ensure the long-term health and stability of our nation's economy," concluded Dahlkemper.

Founded in 1955, Rep. Dahlkemper with her husband Dan, have owned and operated Dahlkemper Landscape Architects & Contractors in Erie, Pennsylvania for 12 years.

The fiscally conservative Democratic Blue Dog Coalition was formed in 1995 with the goal of representing the center of the House of Representatives and appealing to the mainstream values of the American public. The Blue Dogs are dedicated to a core set of beliefs that transcend partisan politics, including a deep commitment to the financial stability and national security of the United States. Currently there are 52 members of the Blue Dog Coalition. For more information, visit the Blue Dog Website at <http://www.house.gov/melancon/BlueDogs/>.

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