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U.S. Travel Association Responds to Northern Trust Accusations

Association Urges Clear Guidelines for Companies,
Cautions against Witch-Hunt that Punishes Working Americans

Washington, DC --Roger Dow, president and CEO of the U.S. Travel Association, today issued the following statement in response to the accusations against Northern Trust and the House Financial Services Committee's call to return taxpayer dollars (see <http://financialservices.house.gov><<http://financialservices.house.gov/>>).

“We agree that companies receiving federal assistance must be accountable to taxpayers for responsibly using public funds.

“But, we are perilously close to falling into a witch-hunt mentality in which working Americans are unfairly punished. For every case of wasteful spending, we are seeing scores of instances in which the game of ‘gotcha’ has forced businesses to cancel legitimate activities that would have grown their bottom lines and generated jobs and economic growth for local communities.

“Policymakers must realize that meetings and events are the lifeblood of local communities across the country. It is critical to protect legitimate travel spending and the millions of American jobs it creates. Meetings and events are responsible for 15 percent of all travel and create more than \$100 billion in spending and \$16 billion in tax revenue.

“Leaders from key organizations representing the meetings, events and incentive travel industries united to issue guidelines on acceptable business travel practices to companies that have received emergency government lending. We urge members of Congress to embrace these guidelines and protect American jobs.”

For more information, or to view the travel industry's model board policy guidelines, please visit www.ustravel.org<<http://www.ustravel.org/>>.

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The U.S. Travel Association is the national, non-profit organization representing all components of the \$740 billion travel industry. U.S. Travel's mission is to promote and facilitate increased travel to and within the United States. For more information, visit www.ustravel.org<<http://www.ustravel.org/>>.

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