



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 10, 2009

CONTACT: Missi Tessier
(202) 879-9375

**Podesta Group Strengthens Appropriations Team
With Addition of Senior Financial Services Adviser**
Financial Services Appropriations Majority Staff Director Dale Oak to Join Firm

Tony Podesta, Chairman of the Podesta Group, today announced that Dale Oak will be joining the firm as a Principal. He will provide strategic counsel to the firm's financial services and appropriations sectors.

"Dale adds a great breadth of knowledge and expertise to our expanding financial services practice, and he will be an asset to our clients in this field," said Podesta. "He possesses the experience and skill that makes him a perfect fit with our talented appropriations team."

Oak currently serves as the Staff Director for the House Appropriations Committee's Financial Services and General Government Subcommittee. He is the principal adviser to Chairman José Serrano (D-NY) of the House Financial Services and General Government Subcommittee, which has jurisdiction over \$20 billion in appropriations, including the expenditures for the Department of the Treasury, the Executive Office of the President, the Securities and Exchange Commission, and more than 20 other federal agencies. Together with Chairman Serrano, he successfully organized and staffed this new subcommittee at its inception in January 2007.

Oak's career in the budget and appropriations sector spans more than 21 years, where he has garnered experience working with all federal agencies. After receiving his MBA in Public/Not-for-Profit Management and Finance from UCLA's Anderson Graduate School of Management, he became a budget preparation specialist at the US Office of Management and Budget in 1987. There, he received the Professional Achievement Award for three years (1989, 1990, 1993). In 1995, he became a professional staff member on the House Committee on Appropriations, specializing in budget estimates and procedures. Oak began his federal government career in 1983 as a legislative assistant for former US Representative John R. McKernan, Jr. (R-ME).

Oak's move to the Podesta Group adds depth to an already thriving appropriations practice at the firm. Other senior members of the Podesta Group's appropriations team include David Morrison and John Shank, both former Staff Directors for the House Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, as well as Elizabeth Morra and John Scofield – former full House Appropriations Committee Communications Directors.

###

The Podesta Group is a bipartisan government relations and public relations firm located in Washington, DC. Clients include Google, Wal-Mart, BP, Textron, National Confectioners Association, Genzyme and Genentech.