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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

U.S. Secretary of Commerce to Speak at World Trade Center Saint Louis Growing Global

St. Louis, MO, August 23, 2010 – World Trade Center Saint Louis (WTC) will host United States Commerce Secretary Gary Locke as keynote speaker at its Growing Global annual luncheon 11 a.m., Friday, September 24 at The Ritz-Carlton. Locke will share insights and perspectives on President Barack Obama’s National Export Initiative (NEI) and its goal of doubling exports over the next five years.

“Given the focus on the newly announced National Export Initiative and importance of exports to the successful long-term economic recovery of our region, I cannot think of a more relevant speaker at a more appropriate venue,” said St. Louis County Executive Charlie A. Dooley.

The luncheon will include an international trade year in review and awards ceremony. The event will also recognize U.S. Senator Christopher “Kit” Bond with its 2010 Global Ambassador award for his commitment to the development of international trade.

“Growing Global provides the forum to celebrate St. Louis’ role in the global economy. We are honored to host Secretary Locke and look forward to his comments while also highlighting Missouri’s success of 35 percent export growth over last year,” said WTC Executive Director Tim Nowak.

Growing Global is the regions premiere event for the international business community. Established in 1998, the annual lunch meeting provides a regional platform to address timely international issues and their affects on globally growing companies. Each year, more than 600 business leaders representing small, medium-sized and multinational organizations attend the program, making it the St. Louis region’s largest international business focused event. For more information and to purchase tickets visit, www.worldtradecenter-stl.com

About World Trade Center Saint Louis

WTC, a division of St. Louis County Economic Council, combines local experts with government resources to enhance international trade, promote local economic development and ultimately foster peace and stability through trade. It supports the St. Louis region by guiding businesses to expand into foreign markets, hosting visiting trade delegations to St. Louis and promoting the region as a place for international trade relations and economic growth.

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