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**CURTIS HERTEL, THE NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
OF THE DETROIT/WAYNE COUNTY PORT AUTHORITY**

Detroit, Michigan, U.S.A.-Today, Arthur Blackwell, Chairman of Detroit/ Wayne County Port Authority (DWCPA) introduced Curtis Hertel at the staff meeting as DWCPA's new Executive Director. "Curtis brings to the Port Authority a wealth of political experience and contacts that will move DWCPA forward in the new direction of promoting trade and economic growth. He was highly recommended to the Board of Directors by key economic development officials like Paul Hillegond, President of Detroit Renaissance . As a Michigan legislator, Curtis has developed a very effective relaxed style of leadership which has enabled him to enter and be accepted by many circles of influence" The Board is confident that he will be effective in his new position," says Chairman Blackwell.

During his tenure as a Democrat Michigan legislator, Curtis served nine terms in the House of Representatives, the last three in significant leadership positions. He was first elected into the Michigan House of Representatives in 1980. His caucus leadership positions included Chairing the House Transportation Committee for 10 years. Throughout his legislative career, he was a member on 15 other House-standing committees and was instrumental in the development of policy ranging from environmental concerns to labor issues to mental health.

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In 1988 he was elected by his peers as Associate Speaker Pro-Tempore of the Michigan House of Representatives. During the 1997-98 term, Hertel was the Speaker of the House, following the 1995-96 term, in which he was the House Minority Leader. During the 1993-94 term, Democrats and Republicans in the Michigan House each held 55 seats, necessitating the first “shared power” agreement in Michigan’s history. Under that agreement, Hertel served as Co Speaker of the House, representing the Democratic Caucus.

Former Speaker Hertel has received numerous awards and honors throughout his career as a legislator. Prior to heading the DWCPA, Hertel was a shareholder, Lobbyist/Partner at the firm, Public Affairs Associates in Lansing, Michigan. He currently serves on the Kern Hospital Board of Directors, Education Freedom Fund Board of Directors, the Music Hall Board of Directors, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Development and Public Relations Committee. He formerly served on the Board of Directors of DWCPA.

Hertel, a graduate of Wayne State University, is the youngest of three sons, Dennis Hertel and John Hertel who made their careers in politics. He is married to Vickie and together they have four children: Curtis, Matthew, Lisa and Kevin.

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