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Celebrating 20 years of pollution prevention partnerships in Pacific Northwest

Seattle, WA— The Pacific Northwest Pollution Prevention Resource Center and its partners including The Boeing Corporation, Intel, Staples, Interstate Distributor Co., Freight Wing, Canyon Creek Cabinets, Network for Business Innovation and Sustainability, Washington Department of Ecology, and U.S. Environmental Protection will celebrate their private/public partnership on Sept. 20, 2011, at 5:30 p.m. at the Red Lion on Fifth, in Seattle, WA. This unique partnership has been engaged for 20 years working to prevent pollution at its source throughout the Pacific Northwest Region.

In the late 1980s, the governors from all four states—Booth Gardner, Washington; Neil Goldschmidt, Oregon; Cecil Andrus, Idaho; and Steve Cowper, Alaska—were concerned about hazardous waste management in their states. They appointed leaders to the Hazardous Waste Advisory Council that spent several years making recommendations for policy and regulatory changes that would, if adopted, make an aggressive attempt at stopping pollution before it became a waste issue.

One of the recommendations that the Council made was the formation of a nonprofit organization that would serve as a catalyst in the region to bring businesses together. The “founding fathers” envisioned the organization that would help build networks and would provide information and technical assistance for businesses about pollution prevention. The Pacific Northwest Pollution Prevention Research (the name was later changed to Resource) Center opened its doors in Seattle in 1991.

Joining in the 20-year celebration on September 20, will be Dennis McLerran, Region 10 EPA Administrator; Dick Pedersen, Director, of the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality;

and keynote speaker Dara O'Rourke. O'Rourke is an expert on the environmental, health, and social impacts of global supply chains. As both a professor and a practitioner, Dr. O'Rourke teaches environmental and labor policy at the University of California, Berkeley and is co-founder and Chief Sustainability Officer of GoodGuide, the most comprehensive source of consumer information on the health, environmental and social performance of products and companies.

Please visit <http://www.pprc.org/rrt2011> for more information about this event.

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The **Pacific Northwest Pollution Prevention Resource Center (PPRC)** is the leading regional non-profit that provides practical, on-the-ground technical assistance to businesses, public agencies, and non-profits that are seeking to conserve resources and improve economic performance. **PPRC's** projects include lean and green for industry, various environmental trainings in the form of webinars, environmentally preferable purchasing, green business certifications, fiscal agency, and the Spray Technique Applied Research (STAR) training for painters. PPRC also provides research that includes development of best management practices, life-cycle analysis, toxics- and greenhouse gas (GHG)-footprinting, and a free research program for a specific environmental issue or question.