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Corporate Executives Join Rural Development Institute Board of Directors to Help End Global Poverty

SEATTLE – The Rural Development Institute (RDI), an international non-profit working to alleviate global poverty by securing land rights for the world's poorest people, announced two new members to its board: Mike McGavick, former chairman, president, and CEO of the Safeco Corporation; and David C. Barclay, president of American High Income Trust and Income Fund of America and director of The Capital Group Companies, Inc.

"RDI is delighted to add the talents of these two distinguished executives to our board," said Tim Hanstad, RDI President and CEO. "Not only do they bring their considerable business acumen, but they also share a true passion for the work that RDI does to help address the world's deepest poverty through the opportunity of land ownership."

RDI, headquartered in Seattle, has offices in China, India, Indonesia and Rwanda, and is a recognized global pioneer in using the law to design innovative strategies that create land ownership opportunities, helping to lift the world's rural poor out of poverty. Over the past 40 years, RDI has worked in more than 40 countries, helping more than 400 million people attain secure land rights.

Today, RDI is engaged in a number of projects in partnership with global leaders, governments and NGOs, including efforts to secure women's property rights and an ambitious "micro-land ownership" program with the governments of four states in India, one of the world's most populous and impoverished countries. "Our research has shown that it only takes a little bit of land to make a big difference in lifting people out of poverty," said Hanstad. "We have found that micro-plots of land as little as 1/10th of an acre can provide a foundation for extremely poor people, especially women, to build a sustainable livelihood and a better economic future."

The leadership of Barclay and McGavick on this internationally renowned non-profit's board of directors follows the growing trend of corporate leaders becoming involved in global efforts to end poverty and increase global security.

Barclay holds a number of positions within the financial investment community, including serving as a director of The Capital Group Companies, Inc., one of the world's largest and most successful investment management organizations with assets in excess of

\$1.3 trillion under management. It comprises a group of investment management companies, including Capital Research and Management, American Funds, Capital Bank and Trust, Capital Guardian, and Capital International. He also is a senior vice president of Capital Research and Management Co., and The Bond Fund of America, Inc., and vice president of New World Fund, Inc.

McGavick held a number of executive positions at the Chicago-based CNA Financial Corporation before he joined Safeco, which he left in 2006. He also was active in federal government relations as chief of staff to former U.S. Senator Slade Gorton and manager of Sen. Gorton's campaign in 1988. He later served as director of the American Insurance Association's Superfund Improvement Project in Washington, D.C. While there, he was the American Insurance Association's lead negotiator in working to transform the nation's Superfund environmental laws.

Barclay and McGavick join political, business and civic leaders on RDI's board of directors. These include James C. Pigott (Board of Directors, PACCAR), Roy Prosterman (RDI founder), Douglas Beighle (Boeing Chief Administrative Officer, Retired), Jerome Cohen (Senior Fellow, Council on Foreign Relations), Janet Curry (Community Volunteer), Jack Faris (President, Washington Biotechnology and Biomedical Association), John Fry, Jr. (Director of Investment Services, Citigroup), Laura Lee Grace (President, Bandwidth Solutions), Heng-Pin Kiang (Telecommunications Consultant), Michael B. King (Talmadge Law Group PLLC), George W. Martin, Jr. (Partner, Hillis Clark Martin & Peterson), Margaret A. Niles (Partner, K & L Gates), Sidney Rittenberg (President, Rittenberg Associates, Inc.), William T. Robinson (Principal, William T. Robinson PLLC), Jill Ruckelshaus (U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Retired) and Robert F. Utter (Supreme Court Chief Justice, Retired).

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About the Rural Development Institute

RDI is an international non-profit working to secure land rights for the world's poor. Over the past 40 years, RDI has worked in more than 40 countries, helping more than 400 million people attain secure land rights. A global pioneer in using law to create land ownership opportunities, RDI's work creates leveraged, sustainable and generational poverty alleviation. For every dollar contributed, on average RDI has secured land rights for six families. For more information, visit www.rdiland.org.

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