

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ABA Taps VP MacKie as New President and CEO

BRASELTON, GA - Gary Prince, Chairman of the Board of the American Bakers Association (ABA), today announced the appointment of Robb MacKie, Vice President Government Relations, as President and CEO of the association. The appointment takes effect January 1, 2006. Mr. MacKie succeeds Paul Abenante, who has served as ABA's President & CEO since 1986.

"We are extremely excited to have Robb as the next leader of ABA. His energy and focus will help guide the industry through the challenges it faces in the years to come," said Mr. Prince, President and CEO of Weston Foods, Inc. "We feel strongly that Robb has the leadership skills, intelligence and energy to take ABA and the wholesale baking industry to a new level."

Earlier this year, Mr. Abenante announced his intention to seek early retirement. In a letter to the ABA membership, he indicated that he had accomplished his objectives and goals as President and CEO and it was time to turn to a new chapter in his life. Most recently, Mr. Abenante spearheaded the formation of the highly successful Grain Foods Foundation to help the baking industry promote the healthy benefits of its products and to respond to the many public misperceptions about grain-based foods.

"ABA is deeply indebted to Mr. Abenante for his tremendous dedication and service to the wholesale baking industry," said Mr. Prince. "We will continue to call on him for advice and counsel during the transition period to Robb's leadership."

Mr. MacKie joined ABA in 1995 as Vice President Government Relations. During his tenure, he has worked tirelessly to increase ABA's profile and effectiveness in Washington policy circles as an advocate and spokesperson for ABA on Capitol Hill. He is a well respected leader in the Washington business community as a result of many legislative and regulatory successes.

In addition, Mr. MacKie has a keen understanding of the issues facing the baking industry from his liaison work with ABA's Human Resources, Safety, Fleet and Distribution, Legal and Executive Leadership Development Committees. In addition, Mr. MacKie has a wealth of industry experience ranging from observing collective bargaining negotiations to riding route trucks.

"On behalf of myself and my family, I am extremely honored by the privilege the baking industry has bestowed upon me to lead the ABA," said Mr. MacKie. "I am enormously grateful for the support of the ABA Board, the ABA professional staff, and Mr. Abenante as we tackle the many opportunities and challenges facing the industry. I am excited to work closely with all of our industry partners to develop successful strategies to address these opportunities."

Prior to joining ABA, Mr. MacKie worked for Congresswoman Holt (R-MD) and Congressman Kolbe (R-AZ) on Capitol Hill. He also represented the construction industry through the American Subcontractors Association and Associated General Contractors. He is a 1985 graduate of Frostburg State University and lives with his wife Barbara and two children in Maryland. He is active in many community and political endeavors in Maryland and serves on the Judicial Nominating Commission for Howard County, Maryland.

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