

News Release

1300 L Street NW • Suite 910 • Washington, DC 20005

(202) 682-9456 • fax (202) 682-0333 • www.nationalpotatocouncil.org

MEDIA INQUIRIES:

Mark Szymanski

Director of Public Relations

National Potato Council

202.682.9456

mark.szymanski@nationalpotatocouncil.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mark Szymanski Joins National Potato Council Staff as Director of Public Affairs

(Washington, DC – May 19, 2011) – Mark Szymanski joined the National Potato Council as director of public relations on September 6, 2011. Szymanski brings more than 10 years of combined experience in communications, new media and regulatory affairs to the NPC. He will lead NPC’s media outreach, grassroots initiatives and social media programs.

“We are excited to have Mark join our team,” said John Keeling Executive Vice President and CEO. “His strong background in communications will be a great benefit towards our efforts to engage the media on our issues and develop social media programs. I look forward to working with Mark to enhance NPC’s position as the leading voice for the potato industry on public policy issues.”

Szymanski previously served as the communications director for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Institute for Legal Reform, where he was responsible for their public relations outreach, media relations, new media and speech writing. Prior to working at the Chamber, he served as the senior speechwriter at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and a media coordinator for members of the New York State Assembly.

He is a native of Upstate New York and grew up working on family farms around Wayland, home of the annual Wayland Potato Festival. Mark received his Bachelor of Arts Degree from Binghamton University in New York. He will be based out of the NPC office in Washington, DC.

###

The National Potato Council is the advocate for the economic well-being of U.S. potato growers on federal legislative, regulatory, environmental, and trade issues. Potato growers, along with the U.S. potato industry as whole, directly benefit from involvement in the National Potato Council. NPC supports the U.S. potato industry by monitoring issues affecting the strength and viability of the potato industry, influencing regulators and legislators on issues crucial to the industry's long term success, ensuring fair market access for potatoes and potato products, and bringing the unique issues and interests of diverse growing regions in the U.S. together on a national level. The National Potato Council is a voluntary organization supported by quota assessments from state organizations, allied industry memberships and sponsorships, and directly by potato growers through membership dues.