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AWB Awards Companies for Environmental Excellence

TACOMA—The Association of Washington Business presented nine Washington companies with Environmental Excellence Awards for their continuous efforts in environmental innovation, resource conservation, education and continuous improvement. AWB President Don Brunell presented the awards at its 2005 Environmental Summit on October 20, 2005.

“Over the years, we’ve recognized businesses, large and small, who have gone beyond what is required by law to improve our environment,” AWB President Don Brunell said. “Each year it is encouraging for me to see different companies across our state doing good things to improve our state’s quality of life.”

The judging requires extensive reviews of the nominations submitted by a panel of experts who review the nominations, check with the regulating agencies, and do everything in their power to insure our awards represent environmental excellence.

“I also believe there are thousands of other businesses in Washington also doing everything they can to comply with environmental standards and be good neighbors and community citizens,” Brunell said. “That accounts for the varying number of nominations each year.”

Watson Furniture Group was one of this year’s Environmental Excellence Award winners:

Watson Furniture Group – Resource Conservation

Poulsbo’s Watson Furniture Group holds an impressive record of resource conservation. Watson’s owners and employees took a comprehensive approach to environmental stewardship, from their “green building” to the suppliers and materials they use, and take a leading role in reducing waste and toxics in the workplace. Watson uses recycled fabrics, recycles all of its steel and wood manufacturing waste material locally, and continues to work at “designing out” hazardous and non-sustainable materials. Watson also ships with reusable blankets, and uses sugar for sandblasting. Watson Furniture notes that its reputation as a green supplier led to “a major factor in our sales increase.”

AWB is Washington's oldest and largest statewide business association. Formed in 1904, its 5,200 members employ more than 600,000 workers. AWB also is the state's chamber of commerce and umbrella organization for more than 125 trade and professional organizations. While AWB's membership includes the state's major employers like Boeing, Microsoft and Weyerhaeuser, more than 85 percent of AWB members employ fewer than 100, and one-third of our members hire fewer than 10.