

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DR. ANDREW TABER ASSUMES LEADERSHIP OF THE MOUNTAIN INSTITUTE **TMI'S BOARD ELECTS TWO NEW TRUSTEES**

WASHINGTON, DC -- Dr. Andrew Taber today became the Executive Director of The Mountain Institute (TMI), a non-profit organization promoting economic development in mountain communities, conservation of mountain environments and support for mountain cultures.

Dr. Taber has 25 years of experience in sustainable development, environmental management and biodiversity conservation. His efforts have led to the creation of globally important protected areas, including Bolivia's Gran Chaco National Park, one of the Western Hemisphere's largest reserves, which is co-managed by native people.

Before joining TMI, Dr. Taber was Deputy Director General of the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) in Bogor, Indonesia. Dr. Taber also spent more than 18 years with the Wildlife Conservation Society, where he held a number of positions including Bolivia Country Program Director, Latin American/Caribbean Program Director, Coordinator of its Brazil Program and Director of its Amazonian Conservation Network. In addition, Dr. Taber served as Executive Vice President for Programs with the Wildlife Trust in New York. He is a graduate of the University of California at Santa Cruz, and received his doctorate in Zoology from Balliol College, Oxford University, England.

"The Mountain Institute is fortunate to find a dedicated leader with Andrew's experience and passion," said TMI's Chairman, Bill Carmean, who served as interim Executive Director since January 2010. "TMI's work in remote communities of Appalachia, the Andes and the Himalayas makes the role of our Executive Director particularly challenging and the need for proven leadership ability all the more critical. With Andrew's assumption of this role, the Board of Trustees and I are confident that TMI will substantially expand its service to mountain communities and contribute more effectively to the preservation of important mountain environments that benefit us all."

In a separate action, The Mountain Institute's Board has also elected two new Trustees:

The Hon. Luis Valdivieso Montano: Luis Valdivieso served as Peru's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the United States from February 2009 until last month. Prior to assuming his duties in Washington, DC,

Ambassador Valdivieso was Peru's Minister of Economy and Finance, in which capacity he also represented Peru on the Board of Governors of the World Bank and the Inter-American Bank, and chaired the Board of Andean Finance Corporation (CAF) and the National Fund for the Financing of Public Sector Entrepreneurial Activity (FONAFE). Ambassador Valdivieso spent more than 28 years at the International Monetary Fund (IMF), serving in a number of senior management positions, and holds a B.A. in Economics from the Catholic University of Peru as well as M.A. and Ph.D degrees in Economics from Boston University. He has also taught at both academic institutions.

Dr. Jane Pratt: Dr. Jane Pratt has spent more than 30 years in the fields of sustainable development and environmental stewardship. Dr. Pratt held various executive positions at the World Bank, including Chief of Environmental Operations and Strategy and Chief of the Office on the UN Conference on Environment and Development, also known as the "Earth Summit." In addition, she served as the CEO of The Mountain Institute from 1994 to 2002. She is a Founding Partner of EcoLogica, LLC, a consulting firm focusing on economic and ecological sustainability, and a Founding Board Member of Friends of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Dr. Pratt holds a B.Sc. in Zoology from the University of Michigan and a Ph.D. in Political Science and Development from the Massachusetts of Technology.

About The Mountain Institute:

The Mountain Institute is a non-profit organization established in 1972 with offices in Washington, DC, West Virginia, Nepal and Peru. Its work focuses on three central themes: economic development in the mountains, conservation of mountain environments and support for mountain cultures. By listening to the people who know mountains best – the people who live there – TMI helps identify and implement solutions to the challenges that threaten their livelihoods and the health of their environments. Working closely with development, government, academic and technical partners, TMI's programs now reach more than a quarter of a million people each year. For more information, go to: www.mountain.org.