



For Immediate Release: June 24, 2008

MBR Commends Governor and Readiness Project for “Bold and Ambitious” Education Agenda

Statement of Alan G. Macdonald, Executive Director

“As business leaders, Roundtable members are concerned that far too many of our young people are leaving school without acquiring the kinds of skills and knowledge that are a prerequisite for success in today’s increasingly global economy. The Governor has recognized this, and the Readiness Project has delivered a bold and ambitious education agenda necessary to properly educate our children for a new economy.

Business leaders understand that long term success is dependent upon articulating goals, developing a plan to achieve those goals, and creating benchmarks to measure success. The Readiness Project has created such a blueprint, with a particular focus on issues identified by Roundtable members as integral to improved outcomes for students, such as teacher and educator quality, an emphasis on science, technology, engineering and mathematics, and an understanding of the importance of early childhood education.

In a report entitled “Tapping America’s Potential,” a coalition of national business organizations warned that the United States “risks a declining standard of living” if we postpone taking aggressive, strategic action, particularly in the areas of science, technology, engineering and mathematics. The Readiness Project has outlined just the type of “aggressive, strategic action” the state needs to drive our innovation economy into the future.

MBR offers its congratulations to Governor Patrick, as well as MBR members Joe Tucci, CEO of EMC Corporation and Co-Chair of the Readiness Project, and John Fish, co-chair of the Readiness Finance Commission for their leadership.”

The Massachusetts Business Roundtable is a statewide public affairs organization of chief executive officers and area executives of the state’s leading companies representing a full range of Massachusetts industry and business enterprise. The Roundtable’s mission is to inform the Commonwealth’s elected and appointed leaders by applying the knowledge, experience, insight and unique managerial perspective of its membership toward the resolution of complex public policy issues. Through research, evaluation and communication, the Massachusetts Business Roundtable strives to influence the state’s public policy agenda by developing and articulating long-term views, programs and policies that promote the social and economic vitality of Massachusetts.