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**Press Release  
For Immediate Release**

**CRE Finance Council Appoints Matt Rhodes as Managing Director of Communications**

*Rhodes comes to CREFC with broad congressional, association and corporate experience*

**WASHINGTON, D.C. (September 13, 2011)** - CRE Finance Council (CREFC), a trade association representing all participants in the commercial real estate finance industry, today announced the appointment of Matt Rhodes as Managing Director of Communications for the association.

In this position, Rhodes will be responsible for developing and implementing the communications strategy for CRE Finance Council. In this role, he will be responsible for media relations and public outreach strategy, internal association communications, website management and all communications with outside trade and professional associations.

Rhodes comes to CRE Finance Council following nearly four years as Director of Media and Government Relations in the Washington, D.C. office of ThyssenKrupp USA, Inc., a materials and technology company accounting for 17,500 employees in 42 states and \$6.7 billion in annual sales (FY 2009/2010). Previously, he served as Director of Legislative Communications for the American Hotel & Lodging Association (AH&LA).

From 2005-2007, Rhodes served as deputy communications director for the House Budget Committee under the leadership of then-chairman Rep. Jim Nussle (R-IA). He previously held the position of press secretary for Rep. Jo Bonner (R-AL) from 2003-2005, where he served as Bonner's primary media spokesman with state and national media, and oversaw an active press operation, including the production of *Congressional Report*, a weekly public affairs television program that aired on WKRG -TV, the CBS affiliate in Mobile, Ala. From 1997-2002, he served as press secretary and district representative for Rep. Sonny Callahan (R-AL), serving as Callahan's primary spokesman and as district liaison with elected officials, community representatives, and constituents.

“I am very pleased that Matt has joined CRE Finance Council as our Managing Director of Communications,” said Stephen Renna, CEO. “Matt brings with him a wealth of experience in the political, corporate and trade association sectors and will benefit us tremendously as we work

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to further elevate the profile of CREFC among our members, industry colleagues, and key constituencies in Congress and the Administration.”

“The staff of CRE Finance Council is one of the best anywhere, and I am honored to be joining the association during this exciting time,” said Rhodes. “Commercial real estate finance touches businesses and communities throughout the U.S. and around the world and is a key component of a healthy economy. I look forward to working with this outstanding team to advocate for the interests of our members and communicate the importance of this industry to key policymakers and media outlets here in Washington and across the country.”

A native of Lynchburg, Va., Rhodes holds a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of South Alabama. He has authored several articles on Alabama history and was a contributor to George Plimpton's 1997 biography of author Truman Capote. Married with two children, Rhodes makes his home in Northern Virginia.

*CRE Finance Council is a trade association dedicated to promoting the strength and liquidity of commercial real estate finance worldwide. CRE Finance Council acts as a legislative and regulatory advocate, plays a vital role in setting industry standards, promotes best practices and provides education for market participants in this key sector of our global economy.*

*With hundreds of member companies, and with a presence in Europe, Japan and North America, CRE Finance Council is dedicated to insightful, forward-thinking research and industry initiatives that encourage vision, innovation and continuous professional growth for market participants. For more information please visit [www.crefc.org](http://www.crefc.org).*

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