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January 21, 2010

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**NTA's 2010 Priority Advocacy Issues Include Focus on Entry/Exit Procedures,
Travel Restrictions to Cuba**

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Entry/exit procedures, opening Cuba for travel and continued work to create a high-level travel and tourism presence in the U.S. government are among NTA's eight priority advocacy issues for 2010. Although the association's government relations team will monitor all legislative activity, these eight issues will receive top attention.

"NTA stands as an advocate for travel and tourism while acting in the best interest of our members' needs," said NTA President Lisa Simon, CTP. "Based on legislation that can either impede or help our members' business interests, the NTA Board determines these priority issues to set the focus of the association's government advocacy work for the coming year."

The eight issues adopted by the NTA Board are:

- Hotel occupancy tax issues
- U.S. entry and exit procedures, visa issuance and the expansion of the Visa Waiver Program
- Marketing grants for destination marketing organizations and nonprofit organizations
- Airline policies that impact sellers of travel
- Lifting of U.S. travel restrictions to Cuba
- Effective implementation of the Travel Promotion Act and the creation of a high-level travel/tourism presence
- National Parks and public lands access/marketing funds
- Passage of highway and Federal Aviation Administration authorization bills

These issues will be discussed with panelists and elected officials during the 2010 Grassroots Symposium, to be held Feb. 8-10, 2010, in Washington, DC. Featured remarks of the Symposium are by Congressman Bill Delahunt, (D-Mass), who is chief House sponsor of the Travel Promotion Act and the Freedom to Travel to Cuba Act.

The National Tour Association was established in 1951 as a unified voice to advocate a friendly regulatory environment in which the newly formed packaged travel industry

could operate. Today, NTA's government relations activities include monitoring security issues, as well as state and federal legislation and regulatory issues affecting the travel and tourism industry. NTA maintains full-time representation in Washington, D.C., to serve as the association's voice on Capitol Hill to create a more positive travel experience for travelers around the globe. Additionally, NTA empowers its members to be advocates for the association on the local level, as well as to provide support for NTA's positions on national priority issues through its Grassroots Action Network. For more information on NTA's government relations activities, please visit NTAonline.com.

- 30 -

<http://www.ntaonline.com/symposium10/>