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PRESS RELEASE

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John Saris Presented Prestigious CDFA Lifetime Achievement Award — Distinguished Development Finance Career Recognized —

Columbus, OH — The Council of Development Finance Agencies (CDFA) is proud to announce the recipient of the **2024 CDFA Lifetime Achievement Award**, John Saris, Retired Finance Manager at Business Oregon. This year's winners will be formally awarded during a special ceremony at the 2024 CDFA National Development Finance Summit in Baltimore, MD, on November 14.

The CDFA Lifetime Achievement Award is given to individuals who have made outstanding and lasting contributions to the development finance industry throughout their professional careers. This award honors those individuals and their dedication to advancing new development finance tools, strategies, and approaches.

"John is a well-loved figure in the development finance world and at CDFA for his many years of active engagement throughout his career. CDFA is proud to honor him with this award for all his service," states Toby Rittner, DFCP and President & CEO of CDFA.

As a Finance Manager at **Business Oregon**, Mr. Saris demonstrated incredible leadership and expertise by successfully managing technical and financial assistance programs, innovative certification programs, and job creation initiatives. Through the department's direct loan, loan guarantee, and conduit bond programs for small businesses, he helped leverage over \$2 billion in funding and create over 10,000 jobs since 2009.

As the manager of the Certification Office for Business, Inclusion & Diversity (COBID), primarily responsible for certifying minority, women, emerging, disadvantaged, or veteran businesses, Mr. Saris enabled historically disadvantaged individuals to effectively compete for public procurement opportunities and reach their funding goals. Mr. Saris further assisted with the administration and oversight of the Business, Innovation & Trade Division of Business Oregon through which he helped facilitate pass-through funding for technical service providers such as the Small Business Development Center Network and the Oregon Manufacturing Extension Partnership.

Mr. Saris also served on the CDFA Board of Directors from 2010 until his retirement in 2023, providing invaluable insight and support to CDFA and its members.

The **Council of Development Finance Agencies** is a national association dedicated to the advancement of development finance concerns and interests. CDFA is comprised of the nation's leading and most knowledgeable members of the development finance community representing public, private, and non-profit entities alike. For more information about CDFA, visit www.cdfa.net.

CDFA: Advancing Development Finance Knowledge, Networks & Innovation

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