

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**January 17, 2006**

WAKEFIELD, MA – Business Development Company (BDC) New England, and its affiliate company New England Certified, today announced the “re-birth” of an Avon, Connecticut based lender, Commercial Loan Partners, Inc.

Commercial Loan Partners is now part of New England Certified, an SBA 504 provider, following the sudden and unexpected death last year of Tom Kellogg, its founder.

“We are pleased to continue the legacy of Tom Kellogg, who was truly committed to helping small business owners finance and grow their businesses,” said Kenneth J. Smith, President of BDC New England.

The Connecticut Business & Industry Association (CBIA), the business partner of BDC in Connecticut, promotes financing programs offered by the BDC and New England Certified to its 10,000 members. Tom Guerra, CBIA director of products and services said, “This is an important program for the business community. Many of our members have used the SBA 504 loan program for the acquisition of real estate and equipment to help grow and expand their companies. This transfer allows BDC and New England Certified to continue the good work that Tom Kellogg started in Connecticut.”

Commercial Loan Partners was an outstanding provider of SBA 504 loans in Connecticut. “Tom hired experienced employees, including Miriam Wood and Carol Muradian, who will continue to provide high-quality service to their customers. They will work out of our Avon, Connecticut office, processing, closing, and servicing SBA 504 loans,” said Smith.

In addition, many of the former corporate members of Commercial Loan Partners have agreed to transition to New England Certified's Connecticut entity. A total of 27 local business people have shown their support to both economic growth in Connecticut and New England Certified by becoming members.

For more information, please contact Carol C. Brennan, Director of Business Development, BDC New England / New England Certified at 860-677-1004 or 413-592-2732 or [cbrennan@bdcnewengland.com](mailto:cbrennan@bdcnewengland.com).

### **ABOUT THE BDC:**

Business Development Corporation of New England helps businesses grow by bridging the capital gap between conventional sources and the greater needs of private industry. The BDC is a 52 year-old private company owned by about 40 financial institutions, most of which are banks. We provide financing throughout New England including SBA 504 real estate and equipment loans through our affiliate New England Certified; term loans from \$500,000 to \$2,000,000; and equity investments from \$500,000 to \$5,000,000. We work closely with lenders to give businesses the complete financing solutions they need for growth.

### **About CBIA**

CBIA has represented Connecticut businesses for more than 175 years, and is the state's largest business organization, with 10,000 member companies. CBIA's public policy staff works with state government to help shape specific laws and regulations to make Connecticut's business climate competitive and create jobs. CBIA's councils, committees and roundtables give members forums in which to become involved in the legislative and regulatory processes.

One of the most important functions of CBIA is to provide members with information on topics that can help them better manage their businesses. CBIA conducts training seminars and workshops; arranges for consulting services; and holds conferences on environmental regulations, health and safety, human resources, taxes, energy, health care, compensation, and benefits. CBIA's telephone consulting service gives members free access to our experienced staff of professionals on a wide range of business topics.

Many of CBIA's members take advantage of the association's employee benefit plans. They include an innovative health insurance program, as well as other insurance lines, retirement plans, a COBRA continuation program, an eyewear savings plan, and group purchasing opportunities.

To find out more about CBIA, visit [www.cbiam.com](http://www.cbiam.com).