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**BILLION DOLLAR ROUNDTABLE
INDUCTS NEW MEMBER COMPANIES**

Apple, CVS Health, Merck, Exelon Recognized for \$1 Billion Annual Supplier Diversity Spend

August 17, 2017 – The Billion Dollar Roundtable Inc. (BDR), a top-level advocacy organization that promotes corporate supplier diversity excellence, inducted four new member companies during ceremonies August 16 at its annual summit in Oakland, Calif., raising the number of members to 27. Apple Inc., CVS Health, Merck & Co. Inc. and Exelon Corp. join an exclusive group of U.S.-based corporations that have attained \$1 billion or more in annual Tier 1 supply-chain diversity spend.

“We are pleased to welcome Apple, CVS Health, Merck and Exelon to the Billion Dollar Roundtable. Our 27 corporate members are among the world’s most influential companies, and their imprint on the practice of corporate supplier diversity opens new doors every day for ambitious and innovative diverse suppliers. We welcome the participation of our newest members in our collective efforts to drive supplier diversity excellence,” said BDR Chairman Rick Hughes.

The Billion Dollar Roundtable honored the four companies at a formal induction ceremony during its Oakland Summit August 16-17, showcasing the corporations’ robust commitment to supplier diversity. BDR summits convene corporate procurement executives, supplier diversity professionals, academics, government officials and diverse suppliers to deliberate current approaches to supplier diversity and devise solutions to foster new opportunities. The theme of the Oakland Summit is “Creating Economic Impact via the Supply Chain: Driving Innovation. Growing Jobs. Increasing Prosperity.”

In addition to Apple, CVS Health, Merck and Exelon, the BDR member companies are Adient, AT&T Inc., Avis Budget Group, Bank of America, The Boeing Co., Comcast NBCUniversal, Cummins Inc., Dell Inc., Fiat Chrysler, Ford Motor Co., General Motors

Corp., Honda North America, IBM Corp., Johnson Controls Inc., Johnson & Johnson, Kaiser Permanente, The Kroger Co., Lear Corp., Microsoft Corp., Procter & Gamble Co., Toyota Motor North America Inc., Verizon Communications Inc. and Wal-Mart Stores Inc. The BDR surveys the Tier 1 diversity spend of its members annually as a condition of membership.

“The Billion Dollar Roundtable is an organization that seeks collaboration of its member to advance the practice of corporate supplier diversity,” said BDR President and CEO Sharon Patterson. “Apple, CVS Health, Merck and Exelon are joining us at a pivotal time as we devise strategies to ensure greater participation of diverse companies into corporate supply chains. We welcome their thought leadership and spirit of collaboration that will help us propose solutions as an organization for many complex issues.”

ABOUT THE BILLION DOLLAR ROUNDTABLE

The Billion Dollar Roundtable, created in 2001, is a non-profit organization made up of 27 Fortune-level corporations that each spend \$1 billion or more annually on a Tier 1 basis on supplier diversity. The BDR recognizes and celebrates corporate members that achieve this status and promotes and shares best practices in supply-chain diversity excellence. BDR member companies review and discuss issues, challenges and strategies related to supplier diversity as a means to advance supply-chain opportunities for both corporations and diverse suppliers. The BDR is publisher of the title “Supplier Diversity Best Practices: Building Excellence to Improve the Supply Chain Matrix.” For more information about the BDR, go to <https://www.billiondollarroundtable.org/>.