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Media Contact:

Dustin Siggins,
(202) 452-1525 x1080
Dustin@pijac.org

Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council Hires New Director of Communications & Public Affairs

WASHINGTON, DC –The Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council (PIJAC) announced today that former U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Senior Advisor Savonne Caughey has been hired as PIJAC’s new Director of Government Affairs.

“We’re excited to bring on a seasoned professional for PIJAC’s federal and state advocacy efforts on behalf of pet care professionals,” said PIJAC president Mike Bober. “Savonne’s broad experience at the top levels of the corporate, government, and nonprofit sectors will be a valuable asset to PIJAC’s members and the nation’s companion animal owners.”

Caughey comes to PIJAC with nearly two decades of high-level government relations and public affairs experience at leading organizations such as American Heart Association, the USDA, and Elanco Animal Health. In her new role, Caughey will represent PIJAC on a wide range of issues before federal, state, and local governments. She will provide key leadership for the industry on regulatory matters, and assist industry members in communicating with lawmakers.

“I am thrilled to join the stellar team at PIJAC and work directly with those who care for animal health,” said Caughey. “At the American Heart Association, I served as a Senior Director on the Southwest Affiliate Advocacy Team. I look forward to taking that experience and applying it to all 50 states with PIJAC.”

In addition to her advocacy duties, Caughey will spearhead PIJAC’s leadership on animal disease prevention. “I am especially pleased to be able to put my USDA and animal health backgrounds to work as the PIJAC Zoonosis Committee’s staff liaison,” she said.

PIJAC Vice President of Government Affairs Robert Likins said Caughey will add depth to PIJAC’s legislative staff. “I could not be more pleased to have Savonne join our team,” said Likins. “Bringing her on board gives those who care for and about companion animals a larger role in crafting policy to help healthy pets get to loving homes.”

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Since 1970, the Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council (PIJAC) has protected pets, pet owners and the pet industry – promoting responsible pet ownership and animal welfare, fostering environmental stewardship, and ensuring the availability of pets. PIJAC members include retailers, companion animal suppliers, manufacturers, wholesale distributors, manufacturers’ representatives, pet hobbyists, and other trade organizations.