

# THE METH PROJECT

## **Meth Project Chairman Testifies Before U.S. Senate Finance Committee**

*Senators Briefed on Meth Project's Prevention Program and  
Its Impact on Meth Use in Montana*

**PALO ALTO, Calif.—September 18, 2007**—Meth Project chairman, Thomas M. Siebel, testified before the Finance Committee of the United States Senate today. Siebel was invited to brief the panel about the impact of the Meth Project's prevention campaign in the state of Montana—where the Meth Project implemented its first statewide program. Since the launch of the Meth Project campaign in Montana in September 2005, the state has seen declines in both Meth use and the social problems associated with the drug, including a 53% reduction in Meth-related crime and a 70% decline in workers testing positive for Meth.<sup>i</sup>

“We started the Meth Project in Montana with the objective of reducing Meth use,” Siebel told the Committee. “The results of the Montana Meth Project have been significant. It is my hope that we can work together to expand the success that we have seen in Montana to other states struggling with this issue.”

The Meth Project is a non-profit organization focused on significantly reducing Meth abuse in the U.S. The Montana Meth Project, Arizona Meth Project, Idaho Meth Project, and other state affiliates implement the Meth Project prevention programs in their respective states. The Meth Project is funded by the Siebel Foundation, with programs in individual states funded by public-private partnerships. Siebel called on the members of the Finance Committee to make federal funds available to expand its Meth prevention campaign to other states across the country.

“The Meth Project has been extremely effective in raising awareness about the devastating impact of this drug,” said Senator Baucus. “We have seen remarkable changes in Montana as a result of the Meth Project—fewer teens and adults are using the drug and Meth-related crime is down considerably. Other states will certainly benefit from the Meth Project's prevention program, and I commend Mr. Siebel for his commitment to this issue. I call on my colleagues to make resources available to implement the Meth Project program nationally.”

Despite encouraging results at the state level, the Meth epidemic continues to gain ground nationally. A recent study by the National Association of Counties (NACo) found that 47% of county sheriffs across the country report Meth as their number one drug problem—more than cocaine (21%) and marijuana (22%) combined. Additionally, 49% percent have seen an increase in the last three years in the number of teens abusing the drug.<sup>ii</sup>

Siebel testified at the Finance Committee Hearing, “Breaking the Methamphetamine Supply Chain: Meeting Challenges at the Border.” Other witnesses included Joseph T. Rannazzisi, Deputy Assistant Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration; Christy A. McCampbell, Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Department of State's Bureau for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs; and Matthew C. Allen, Deputy Assistant Director for the Office of Investigations, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement at the Department of Homeland Security.

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**About the Meth Project**

The Meth Project is a national non-profit organization headquartered in Palo Alto, California, aimed at significantly reducing first-time Meth use through public service messaging, public policy, and community outreach. The Montana Meth Project, Arizona Meth Project, Idaho Meth Project, and other state affiliates implement the Meth Project prevention programs in their respective states. The Meth Project is funded by a grant from the Siebel Foundation. For more information, visit [www.methproject.org](http://www.methproject.org).

Media Contacts:      Jessica del Mundo  
                                 GolinHarris  
                                 213-438-8772  
                                 jdelmundo@golinharris.com

Sarah Ingram  
GolinHarris  
213-438-8721  
singram@golinharris.com

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<sup>i</sup> Montana Attorney General, Mike McGrath. *Methamphetamine in Montana: A Preliminary Report on Trends and Impact*. January 2007.

<sup>ii</sup> National Association of Counties, *The Methamphetamine Epidemic: The Changing Demographics of Methamphetamine*. August 2007.