

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 29, 2008

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Nationally Recognized Nutrition Leader to Launch New Food and Nutrition Policy Practice at Podesta Group

Tony Podesta, Chairman of the Podesta Group, today announced that Ellen Haas will be of counsel to the firm's new food, nutrition, and agriculture policy practice.

"Ellen is a nationally recognized expert on food and nutrition issues as well as a savvy entrepreneur," said Podesta. "Her leadership has spanned from the Administration, where she served as the highest ranking official on nutrition, to the private sector to the advocacy community. She will be a powerful advocate for clients that have a stake in upcoming food and nutrition policy debates in Washington."

Haas is the founder and president of FoodFit.com, which provides consumers with the information and tools they need to lead a healthier life. FoodFit.com is a division of the Health Central Network, Inc. (THCN). Haas will continue to provide strategic advice to integrate nutrition and wellness throughout THCN's more than 30 general health and highly specific condition and wellness properties.

Former President Bill Clinton appointed Haas to serve as the Undersecretary of Agriculture for Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services. In this capacity, she was responsible for the nation's 15 food assistance programs, including Food Stamps, the Women, Infants and Children program (WIC) and the School Lunch Program. She also oversaw the Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion.

Haas founded and served as executive director of Public Voice for Food and Health Policy, a national advocacy organization from 1981 to 1993. She was a leader for creating mandatory nutrition labeling and improving food safety and was elected to five terms as president of the Consumer Federation of America between 1976 and 1991.

Haas is a member of Harvard University's Food Policy Group (PAPSAC). Additionally, she serves on the Future State Advisory Board of the Campbell Soup Company and on the boards of the Springboard Trust and the L'Enfant Trust for historic preservation.

Awards include the American Health Foundation's Lifetime Award, American Heart Association's Public Affairs Award, and *Parenting* magazine's Parenting Achievement Award. She is also the author of *Great Adventures in Food: Fresh Ways to Celebrate Every Meal*; *Fit Food: Eating Well for Life*; *Diabetes Fit Food*; and *Fast and Fit*.

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