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## **Brent ERICKSON**

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Brent Erickson is an executive vice president at the Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO). Mr. Erickson holds a B.S. degree in biology and an M.A. degree in international studies. After completing his undergraduate degree Mr. Erickson was involved in fossil fuel research for three years at the U.S. Department of Energy's Laramie Energy Technology Center.

After completing graduate school Mr. Erickson joined the staff of U.S. Senator Alan K. Simpson (R-WY) as a legislative assistant handling energy, public lands, environment, and defense and intelligence issues. He was actively involved in the reauthorization of many federal statutes, including the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, the Safe Drinking Water Act, the Endangered Species Act, and the Superfund toxic waste cleanup law. Mr. Erickson was promoted to legislative director and managed all legislative and policy issues for the Senator, who was then the Assistant Republican Leader of the Senate.

In 1996, Mr. Erickson joined the American Petroleum Institute (API) as a Washington representative, where he directed government relations efforts on environmental issues. While at API he was chosen to chair a multi-industry Senate task force of the Air Quality Standards Coalition. During this time Mr. Erickson was successful in assisting Congress to pass legislation on air quality standards issues. While at API he earned three special achievement awards.

Mr. Erickson joined BIO in 2000 as director of the Industrial and Environmental Section. He spearheaded an effort to work with President Bush and Vice President Cheney to include advanced biomass energy programs in the administration's National Energy Plan. He was promoted to vice president in 2001 and executive vice president in 2005.

In May of 2001, he was elected vice-chair of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development's Task Force on Biotechnology for Sustainable Industrial Development, a position he held until the end of 2005. In September 2001, he was selected to be a member of an advisory group to the Senate Agriculture Committee charged with developing renewable energy proposals for the committee that were ultimately included in the final comprehensive Farm Bill of 2002. In 2004 he headed up the Bioenergy/Agriculture Working Group of the Energy Future Coalition, an advocacy coalition organized and funded by the United Nations Foundation, and he continues to be very active in the coalition.

In 2005 he was named consulting editor of the journal *Industrial Biotechnology*. Since 2000 he has served as a member of the board of directors of the Western Research Institute, the not-for-profit arm of the University of Wyoming Research Corporation and he serves on the advisory board of the Northeast SunGrant Initiative.