



Costco Wholesale Corporation Announces New Board Members

January 31, 2003

ISSAQUAH, Wash.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Jan. 31, 2003--Costco Wholesale Corporation (Nasdaq: COST) today announced the election of two new members to its board of directors: Daniel J. Evans and William H. Gates, Sr. Mr. Evans is the Chairman of Daniel J. Evans Associates, a consulting firm. He was previously United States Senator from the State of Washington and a three-term Governor of the State. Mr. Gates is the CEO and Co-Chair of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. He was previously a senior partner with the law firm of Preston Gates & Ellis. Both men currently serve on the Board of Regents of the University of Washington.

Jeff Brotman, Chairman of the Board, stated: "The Board and the Company are very fortunate to have Mr. Evans and Mr. Gates serve as directors. The distinguished careers of these gentlemen in public and private service give them unique insights that will benefit the Company."

Costco currently operates 412 warehouses, including 304 in the United States and Puerto Rico, 61 in Canada, 15 in the United Kingdom, five in Korea, three in Taiwan, three in Japan and 21 in Mexico. The Company also operates Costco Online, an electronic commerce web site, at www.costco.com. The Company plans to open an additional 12 to 14 new warehouses, including the relocation of 4 warehouses to larger and better-located facilities, prior to the end of its fiscal year 2003, on August 31, 2003.

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