



Long-time Manchin Chief Patrick Hayes Joins Kountoupes Denham Carr & Reid *David Peluso Elevated to Partner*

Washington, DC (March 1, 2021) – Kountoupes, Denham, Carr & Reid, a premier bipartisan government affairs firm, today announced that Patrick Hayes, former chief of staff to Senator Joe Manchin (D-WV), will join the firm as partner on March 15th, and that David Peluso, who served in senior roles for Representatives Gus Bilirakis (R-FL) and Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA), has been made a partner at the firm.

“The addition of Pat and the elevation of Dave makes our team of principals one of the strongest and savviest in DC,” said Lisa Kountoupes, founder and president of KDCR Partners. “Our clients will greatly benefit from our unique expertise in navigating razor-thin margins in both houses of Congress while balancing the intricacies within the Democratic Caucus and Republican Conference. It’s hard to beat the team we now have, and I am excited to see what the future holds.”

Hayes held two leadership roles for Senator Manchin, serving as his chief of staff for four years, including during the Senator’s successful re-election bid in 2018, and four years as his legislative director. In these roles, he was also Senator Manchin’s liaison to Senate leadership. Pat began his career on the Hill serving in a number of roles for former Senator Evan Bayh (D-IN), including deputy legislative director and military legislative assistant, where he handled appropriations and armed services issues.

“Pat was an effective chief of staff and trusted advisor. He is a thoughtful strategist who understands the importance of bipartisanship and coalition building, and I am excited for him to be taking on this new role,” said Senator Manchin.

Prior to joining KDCR Partners, Hayes was senior vice president for federal, state and local government affairs for Altice USA, one of the largest broadband communications and video services providers in the United States. In this role, he was responsible for all advocacy efforts for the company, which operates in 21 states.

“Pat’s corporate experience at Altice will provide a unique perspective that will even further elevate the top-notch counsel we give our clients and the insight we share with policymakers and staff on the Hill,” continued Kountoupes.

In his almost five years at KDCR Partners, Peluso has been integral to the firm’s strong growth and success. His leadership on the firm’s technology, energy and travel clients has shepherded them to major policy wins, while also helping them navigate the uncertainty surrounding the first months of the COVID-19 crisis.

“Since the beginning of the year, our client roster has grown by 20 percent and we’ve added three senior staff to



our team. Dave has been a key part of that growth. I am excited to have him and Pat as partners as we lead the firm during this exciting time,” said Kountoupes.

Before joining KDCR, Peluso served as chief of staff to two influential House Republicans, Energy and Commerce Ranking Member McMorris Rodgers and Representative Bilirakis, ranking member of the Energy and Commerce Consumer Protection and Commerce Subcommittee. He was also part of the strategic leadership team for the House Republican Conference, where he mastered the complex dynamics in the House with unique insight into the day to day thinking of members of Congress across the ideological spectrum.

“I am proud of – but not at all surprised by – Dave’s promotion. He is equal parts strategic thinker, astute policy expert, and team player. He certainly was an instrumental part of my office during his tenure, and I am confident he will again excel in his new role,” said Chairwoman McMorris Rodgers.

Among the firm’s clientele are Exelon, CVS Health, Philips, Intel, AirBnB, and TerraPower.

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About Kountoupes, Denham, Carr & Reid

Kountoupes Denham Carr & Reid is a bipartisan, results-driven firm that offers clients invaluable counsel and partnership in navigating the legislative and political landscape in Washington, D.C.