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## **Keith Pitts Joins Marrone Organic Innovations as Regulatory VP**

*Brings over 20 years of senior public policy and regulatory affairs experience*

**DAVIS, Calif. (July 1, 2008)** – Marrone Organic Innovations, Inc. (MOI) announces that Keith Pitts has joined the company as Vice President of Regulatory Affairs.

Mr. Pitts has worked in senior legislative, administrative, regulatory and public policy roles for more than two decades. In that time, Keith has been a successful senior-level administrator and negotiator who has been actively involved in shaping domestic and international policies regarding pesticides, organic agriculture, agricultural biotechnology, invasive species, climate change, specialty crops and food safety.

“We continue to attract the highest caliber people to our company,” said CEO Pam Marrone. “With such a deep pipeline of products needing regulatory support and leadership, it was time to add Keith in this senior position.”

At the US Department of Agriculture, Keith served as Special Assistant to Deputy Secretary Richard Rominger (MOI Board member and founding investor) and, also, to Secretary Dan Glickman. Keith was a senior advisor to the Secretary and Deputy Secretary and led several key agricultural, environmental and food safety initiatives for the USDA and the Clinton Administration.

Keith’s career work has focused on issues such as the President’s Initiative to Ensure the Safety of Imported and Domestic Fruits and Vegetables, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Montreal Protocol and phase-out of methyl bromide, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, major reform of U.S. pesticide policy and agricultural biotechnology policy, the WTO and NAFTA, and several U.S. farm bills. He was also the USDA leader on developing and implementing the President’s Executive Order on Invasive Species and the President’s National Invasive Species Management Plan.

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Most recently, Keith was Public Policy Director for the Pew Initiative on Food and Biotechnology, a nonpartisan research and policy organization based in Washington, DC, where he led all of the organization's policy-related activities. He convened and managed the Stakeholder Forum on Food and Biotechnology, a two-year policy dialogue among 20 high-level stakeholders representing a diversity of interests and also published extensively on the development and regulation of agricultural biotechnology. The organization was recognized in 2004 by Scientific American magazine as the year's Policy Leader in Agriculture for its work as a neutral forum for debate on agricultural biotechnology.

"I have spent nearly my entire career in the public sector supporting innovation in agriculture and the protection of human health and the environment. Now, working with Pam and my colleagues at MOI, my next career phase allows me to enter the private sector with a company that has a mission, a vision and values that I share and support. MOI is leading the industry with innovative products and exciting R&D that will significantly improve agricultural productivity AND environmental health for years to come," said Keith.

Before working for USDA Deputy Secretary Rominger, he served for the House Committee on Agriculture, was Minority Staff Consultant for Specialty Crops, and Majority Staff Director for the House Subcommittees on Specialty Crops and Natural Resources and Department Operations, Research, and Foreign Agriculture. Prior to his work on he House Agriculture Committee, he was Legislative Director for Congressman Charlie Rose (D-NC).

Keith is Member, Board of Directors, Institute of Forest Biotechnology based in Raleigh, NC, and is also a member of the National Academies of Science Board on Agriculture and Natural Resources (The National Research Council) headquartered in Washington, DC. Keith has a BA in Chemistry from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Keith and his family now reside in the Sacramento area.

***Marrone Organic Innovations discovers, develops and markets effective and environmentally responsible products that fill unmet needs for weed, plant disease and pest management. Through a combination of in-licensed technology and its own R&D, MOI develops products that target markets needing better and safer solutions. MOI has an impressive pipeline of new products from its own inventions and those licensed exclusively from others. ([www.marroneorganicinnovations.com](http://www.marroneorganicinnovations.com))***

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