

## **Barbara Miller of The Richards Group Honored with Award of Excellence by Safeco Insurance®**

Brattleboro, VT (November 16, 2011) – Barbara Miller of The Richards Group has been honored with the Award of Excellence by Safeco Insurance for the second year in a row.

“Our independent insurance agency works hard to serve our customers by getting the right coverage for the right price,” said Barbara Miller of The Richards Group in Brattleboro. “It’s an honor to be recognized by Safeco as one of its top agency partners.”

The Award of Excellence celebrates outstanding agents with superior underwriting skills who have developed a solid underwriting partnership with Safeco and whose agencies have qualified for membership in Safeco’s H.K. Dent Society, the company’s elite agency recognition program.

“The Award of Excellence designation is the most prestigious underwriting recognition agents who partner with Safeco can achieve,” said Debbie Akers, vice president for Safeco’s underwriting field operations. “Safeco is proud to honor these best-in-class agents for their long-term loyalty with our company and their outstanding underwriting abilities that serve both their customers and Safeco.”

### **About The Richards Group**

The Richards Group is a family-owned independent insurance, employee benefits, and financial services firm founded in 1867. Their commitment to exceptional service and creative protection solutions remains the cornerstone of their business model. With a staff of over 60 insurance professionals The Richards Group now serves more than 10,000 clients located throughout Vermont, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts.

### **About Safeco Insurance**

In business since 1923 and based in Seattle, Washington, Safeco sells insurance to drivers and homeowners through a network of independent agents and brokers in eight regions throughout the United States.

Safeco is part of Liberty Mutual Agency Corporation, a strategic business unit of Liberty Mutual Group, consisting of property and casualty and specialty insurance carriers that distribute their products and services primarily through independent agents and brokers. Liberty Mutual Group ranks 82<sup>nd</sup> on the Fortune 100 list of the largest U.S. corporations based on 2010 revenue. The company has financial strength ratings of A (Excellent) from the A.M. Best Company, A2 (Good) from Moody’s Investors Service, and A- (Strong) from Standard & Poor’s.