Millard county commissioner earns national recognition for innovative governance

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The National Association of Counties (NACo) has recognized Daron Smith, Commissioner, Millard County, Utah with the association’s prestigious 2012 County Courthouse Award for Innovative Governance.

Smith was selected as the Rural Category winner by an independent panel of judges. He was recognized for his dedication to improving the lives of county residents, including his leadership addressing the Snake valley water issue, the West wide Energy corridor, and governance over a county-owned long term health care facility.

- Snake Valley Water – Successful efforts in protecting the rights of his constituents while working diligently to open the door to better the financial, environmental, and economic opportunities for county residents.

- West Wide Energy Corridor – County took a proactive position, including meetings with federal public lands officials in Washington, D.C., to create a much-needed utility corridor which protects the rights and interests of private agriculture property owners in the county.

- Health care facility – The county-built long term health care facility, after several years of financial difficulties, now operates at a near breakeven level and has proper community and county board oversight of the health care company that manages it.

“On behalf of the nation’s counties, I commend Commissioner Smith for his outstanding leadership in addressing these difficult challenges effectively on behalf of Millard County residents,” said NACo President Lenny Eliason, Commissioner, Athens County, Ohio.

Smith is a farmer who was first elected to county board in 2002. He and his wife, Stephanie, have six children. He has Bachelor of Science degree from Utah State University in business management.

This year’s winners were honored at NACo’s 77th Annual Conference and Exposition, July 13-17, in Allegheny County/Pittsburgh, Pa.
Established in 2001, County Courthouse Awards recognize elected county officials who demonstrate innovative and effective leadership to improve the quality of life of their residents. One County Courthouse Award is presented each year in three categories: Rural County, Suburban County, and Urban County. Each winner receives a $5,000 college scholarship to present to a local student.

The County Courthouse Awards are sponsored by Siemens and presented by NACo's Large Urban County Caucus and Rural Action Caucus. More information is available at www.naco.org.

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The National Association of Counties (NACo) is the only national organization that represents county governments in the United States. Founded in 1935, NACo provides essential services to the nation’s 3,068 counties. NACo advances issues with a unified voice before the federal government, improves the public’s understanding of county government, assists counties in finding and sharing innovative solutions through education and research, and provides value-added services to save counties and taxpayers money. For more information about NACo, visit www.naco.org.