Brooks appointed vice chair of NACo Green Government Initiative Advisory Board

WASHINGTON, D.C. – National Association of Counties’ (NACo) President Glen Whitley has appointed Franklin County, Ohio Commissioner Paula Brooks as vice chair of the advisory board of the association’s Green Government Initiative.

Brooks will serve in board leadership with Chair Gregg Goslin, commissioner, Cook County, Ill.; Vice Chair Salud Carbajal, supervisor, Santa Barbara County, Calif.; Corporate Vice Chair Janice Sakamoto, EcoMedia CBS, and Corporate Vice Chair Greg Fox, Constellation Energy.

NACo’s Green Government Initiative is a national effort launched in 2007 to assist the nation’s counties in developing and implementing environmentally sound, cost effective programs and practices. It serves as a comprehensive resource for local governments on all things green, including energy, green building, air quality, transportation, land use, water quality, purchasing, and recycling.

The Green Government Advisory Board consists of 21 corporate partners and 21 county leaders in sustainability, who shape the direction of the initiative to assist counties in “going green.”

“NACo is pleased that Commissioner Brooks will help lead our Green Government Initiative at a time when more and more counties across the country are seeking innovating ways to go green,” said NACo President Glen Whitley, county judge, Tarrant County, Texas.

“This public/private initiative is exactly what we need to spur on good green jobs. NACo excels at this insightful approach,” said Brooks.

A member of NACo’s Environment, Energy and Land Use Steering Committee since 2006, Brooks currently serves as vice chair of the subcommittee on Energy and Renewables. She is a member of the NACo Electronic Green Government Network and serves as vice chair of NACo’s Arts and Culture Commission.

The Franklin County Commissioners recently finished construction on Ohio’s first “green” courthouse. Throughout the building process the commissioners insisted that sustainable materials, including those
locally recycled, be used in the construction. The building features a number of green technologies, including a roof to help reduce storm water runoff into the nearby Scioto River, a 25 percent increase in energy efficiency, and water conservation systems that are projected to save a million gallons of water each year compared to a comparable new code compliant building. The use of these energy efficient technologies will pay back in nine years or less.

The Franklin County Commissioners are currently seeking gold level certification under the U.S. Green Building Council’s Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) for new construction category.

For more information about the NACo Green Government Initiative, visit the NACo website at www.naco.org or contact Jared Lang 202.942.4224.

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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.