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Rural Action Caucus to meet with Administration,
Congress in the nation’s Capital April 5-7

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Members of the National Association of Counties’ (NACo) Rural Action Caucus (RAC) will conduct a “fly-in” advocacy effort April 5-7 in the nation’s Capital to voice their support for federal funding, legislation and programs critical for rural communities across the country. Eighteen RAC members from 16 states will be in the nation’s capital meeting with administration officials and members of Congress.

Each year, the caucus identifies the most pressing issues facing rural America and brings them to the attention of key administration officials and members of Congress. This year’s priority issues include:

- support for NACo rural surface transportation priorities and the Essential Air Service Program (EAS);
- making rural development a priority within farm bill reauthorization and level funding for U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development programs;
- a multi-year reauthorization of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act (SRS);
- support rural health care by protecting Medicaid, and
- level funding for the Community Development Block Grant program (CDBG).

“While Congress is considering billions of dollars in domestic spending cuts, it’s critical that they hear directly from county officials,” said RAC Chair Lu Barron, supervisor, Linn County, Iowa. “We need to work together to create jobs and grow our economy. That objective becomes more difficult to achieve if federal programs affecting rural communities are cut substantially.”

RAC members will meet with members of Congress on April 6. On April 7, RAC members will meet with officials from U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), U.S. Forest Service, USDA, and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

RAC is the voice for America’s rural counties in Washington. It is a bipartisan coalition of rural elected officials from across the country striving to enhance the quality of life in rural counties through effective federal legislation.

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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.