N E W S  R E L E A S E

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  October 10, 2013
CONTACT:  Jim Philipps, 202.942.4220

NACo Rural Action Caucus to set rural America priorities

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The National Association of Counties’ (NACo) Rural Action Caucus (RAC) Steering Committee will meet this week to establish the group’s 2014 legislative priorities to influence federal legislation, regulations and funding affecting rural county government programs and services. The meeting will be held Oct. 11-12 in Santa Fe County, N.M.

The meeting brings together more than 30 representatives from America’s rural counties for in-depth policy and discussions on issues critical to the nation’s rural communities. The event will focus on utilizing cross-jurisdictional relationships and rural economic development efforts.

Issues to be discussed include water compacts, interstate stream commissions, New Markets Tax Credit (NMTC) loan funds, and intergovernmental and tribal relations in regards to land use and economic development. Participants will also discuss how rural counties can strategically transform the efforts of local arts and cultural groups into increased tourism and tax revenues.

Special guest speakers include Estevan López, director, New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission; Marquita Russel, chief of programs, New Mexico Finance Authority, and Jay Dick, senior director of state and local government affairs, Americans for the Arts.

RAC is chaired by Ray Jeffers, commissioner, Person County, N.C. RAC’s 2014 Legislative Priorities will be available soon at www.naco.org. Click here to read the agenda.

###

About RAC

RAC is the voice for America’s rural counties before Congress and the administration. Nearly two-thirds of the nation’s 3,069 counties are designated as rural, with a combined population of 60 million. County elected officials from these rural areas are dedicated to solving many critical issues impacting rural life and development. These include infrastructure development, broadband deployment, development of new rural clinics and hospitals, road and bridge construction and maintenance, business development opportunities and many more county responsibilities. Each year, the caucus identifies the most pressing issues facing rural America and brings them to the attention of Congressional leaders and key members of the administration.

About NACo

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 3,069 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.