NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 11, 2013
CONTACT: Jim Philipps, 202.942.4220

NACo applauds Senate passage of farm bill

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The National Association of Counties (NACo) today applauded the U.S. Senate for passing the five-year farm bill with overwhelming bipartisan support and urges the U.S. House of Representatives to quickly pass the bipartisan legislation and send it to the president’s desk.

The Agriculture Reform, Food and Jobs Act of 2013 (S. 954) passed late Monday, June 10 with bipartisan support by a vote of 66-27. The bill authorizes a broad range of programs that are critical to counties and local communities.

NACo supports S. 954 because it restores funding for NACo’s key priorities. The bill includes:

- $115 million in mandatory funding for the Rural Development Title
- $150 million for the Water and Wastewater Backlog
- $62.5 million for the Value Added Producer Grant Program
- $15 million for the Rural Microenterprise Assistance program
- $800 million in mandatory funding for the Energy Title, and
- $85 million for the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program.

The legislation authorizes, and in some cases funds, programs that assist counties in their rural development efforts, nutrition assistance programs, conservation initiatives, renewable energy deployment, support for new farmers/ranchers, and business development initiatives.

For more information, contact Jim Philipps at 202.942.4220 or jphilipps@naco.org.

###

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.