



2022 ANNUAL CONFERENCE & EXPOSITION JULY 21-24



Rural Action Caucus Business Meeting

Friday, July 22, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM MT | Location: Colorado A | Level 3

Caucus Leadership

Chair:	Hon. Greg Puckett, <i>Commissioner</i> , Mercer County, W. Va.
Vice Chair:	Hon. Virginia Bass, <i>Supervisor</i> , Humboldt County, Calif.
Vice Chair:	Hon. Tarryl Clark, <i>Commissioner</i> , Stearns County, Minn.
Vice Chair:	Hon. Melissa Cribbins, <i>Commissioner</i> , Coos County, Ore.
Vice Chair:	Hon. Stephanie Davis, <i>County Judge</i> , Comanche County, Texas
Vice Chair:	Hon. Lena Fowler, <i>Supervisor</i> , Coconino County, Ariz.
Vice Chair:	Hon. Debra Lucero, <i>Supervisor</i> , Butte County, Calif.
Vice Chair:	Hon. Eugene Olivier, <i>Councilman</i> , Iberia Parish, La.
Vice Chair:	Hon. John Peters, <i>Supervisor</i> , Mono County, Calif.
Vice Chair:	Hon. Robert Post, <i>Commissioner</i> , Banner County, Neb.
Vice Chair:	Hon. Vance Stuehrenberg, <i>Commissioner</i> , Blue Earth County, Minn.
Vice Chair:	Hon. Orlando Trainer, <i>Supervisor</i> , Oktibbeha County, Miss.

Meeting Agenda

10:00 AM: Call to Order and Welcome Remarks

- **Hon. Greg Puckett**, *Chair*, NACo Rural Action Caucus (RAC); *Commissioner*, Mercer County, W. Va.

10:15 AM: Rallying for Rural Development: Preparing for the 2023 Farm Bill Reauthorization

Counties understand that strong partnerships and a robust intergovernmental relationship will be key to ensuring local priorities are addressed in the 2023 Farm Bill. Hear from panelists as they discuss the reauthorization from different but equally important perspectives, including through the lens of local farmers, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) state directors for rural development and association partners.

- **Hon. Bob Fox**, *Commissioner*, Renville County, Minn.
- **Hon. Colleen Landkamer**, *Minnesota State Director for Rural Development*, USDA
- **Doug O'Brien**, *President*, National Cooperative Business Association CLUSA International

11:00 AM: Interview with the U.S. Consumer Finance Protection Bureau (CFPB): Rural Banking Deserts and How to Address Them

A banking desert is an area that lacks access to a banking branch within 10 miles of its center. Most commonly found in rural communities, these deserts create inequities that adversely impact rural residents. Learn more from the CFPB on how the bureau is working to address this issue and provide your feedback on the issue.

- **Hon. Debra Lucero**, *Vice Chair*, NACo RAC; *Supervisor*, Butte County, Calif.
- **Shawn Sebastian**, *Senior Fellow*, CFPB

11:30 AM: Rural Broadband: Reaching the Underserved

Hear an update from NACo partner Juniper who provides insight and advice to counties and other entities seeking to deliver internet services. Learn how key partnerships can help address the gap in service delivery for rural residents.

- **Ben Caruso**, State & Local Government Lead, Juniper Networks
- **Guy Werre**, Vertical Practice Leader, Juniper Networks

11:45 PM: Update from the U.S. Department of Transportation

Hear a brief update from USDOT on the implementation of the historic Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, as well as other transportation priorities of the Biden Administration.

- **Will Rasky**, Advisor for Governmental Affairs, USDOT

11:55 PM: Closing Remarks

- **Hon. Greg Puckett**, Chair, NACo Rural Action Caucus; Commissioner, Mercer County, W. Va.

12:00 PM: Meeting concludes

NACo staff liaison: Jessica Jennings, Legislative Director & RAC Liaison, jjennings@naco.org or 202-942-4264