

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Harrison Moody hits Capitol Hill to support programs, funding for rural America

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Harrison A. Moody, Dinwiddie County Supervisor, met with administration officials and members of Congress in support of federal funding, legislation and programs critical for Dinwiddie County and rural communities across the country as part of the National Association of Counties' (NACo) Rural Action Caucus (RAC) "fly-in" advocacy effort, April 5-7.

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 deep cuts in domestic spending, it's critical that they hear directly from county officials," according to Moody. "Addressing the federal budget deficit cannot be at the expense of long-standing federal programs affecting millions of Americans living and working in rural communities."

In addition to meetings with members of Congress, RAC members split into small groups and met 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).

Issues affecting Dinwiddie County, such as the new EPA regulations affecting the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, were discussed.

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.