



News Release

25 Massachusetts Avenue, NW | Washington, DC 20001 | 202.393.6226 | fax 202.393.2630 | www.naco.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 8, 2010

CONTACT: Jim Philipps

202-942-4220, jphilipps@naco.org

NACo applauds Connolly/Lance bill to create National Commission on Intergovernmental Relations

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The National Association of Counties’ (NACo) is urging members of Congress to cosponsor and support bipartisan legislation to create a National Commission on Intergovernmental Relations.

The commission would be a permanent, independent, bipartisan group to study and consider the federal government’s intergovernmental relationships and recommend solutions from all levels of government for the challenges facing our country.

The “Restore the Partnership Act” (H.R. 3332), sponsored by Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-Va.) and Rep. Leonard Lance (R-N.J.), would establish the commission to facilitate cooperation between all levels of government.

“With this legislation it is our intention to cement the partnership between the federal government and local government,” said Connolly, a former chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. “As a longtime elected county official, I fully appreciate that local government is not just another special interest group. I look forward to working with NACo to secure additional Congressional support for this bill.”

NACo President Valerie Brown said NACo is committed to Restore the Partnership between the federal government and America’s counties.

“Establishing the National Commission on Intergovernmental Relations will go a long way to ensuring the voice of local and state governments are heard loud and clear in Washington, D.C.,” said Brown, supervisor, Sonoma County (Calif.) Board of Supervisors.

Under the legislation, the commission would be composed of members representing all levels of government, including Senators, House members, governors, state legislators, mayors, tribal leaders and elected county officers. It is loosely modeled after the defunct Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations (ACIR), which was operational from 1959 to 1995.

Specifically, the new commission would:

- bring together representatives of federal, state and local governments for the consideration of common problems;
- provide a forum for discussing the administration and coordination of federal aid and other programs requiring intergovernmental cooperation;
- give critical attention to the conditions, controls, and oversight involved in the administration of such federal programs; and
- encourage discussion and study during the 20 early stages of emerging public challenges that are likely to require intergovernmental cooperation.

###

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.