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Otero County Joins 3,000 county officials at NACo Annual Conference in Nashville

NASHVILLE, TENN. – Commissioner Ronny Rardin participated in the National Association of Counties' (NACo) 74th Annual Conference and Exposition in Nashville/Davidson County, Tenn. and pledged to work toward economic recovery. The conference was held July 24-28 in the Gaylord Opryland Convention Center.

More than 3,000 elected and appointed county officials representing nearly every state and the District of Columbia adopted resolutions on national issues facing counties, including economic development, transportation and infrastructure funding, and access to healthcare. Attendees also participated in educational seminars and workshops to strengthen their public service skills and heard from leading national experts on various issues important to local government.

Commissioner Rardin was appointed to the Public Land Steering Committee, which was the heart of the movement to bring P.I.L.T. into full funding. Ryan Yates is the NACo staff member who lobbies Washington year round. Mr. Yates efforts along with NACo brought more than \$3,000,000 to Otero County, approx. \$500,000 to local schools through SRS Title I monies.

“It was a very productive and informative conference,” Rardin said. “The great value of participating in NACo’s conferences is interacting with my fellow county officials from across the country, lending our county’s voice to national policies affecting us at home, and hearing directly from administration officials and national experts.”

Economic recovery was the primary focus of the conference. It included three concurrent sessions on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). The sessions addressed a variety of issues important to counties in these tough economic times, including employment, infrastructure and development. Counties also learned how to best use Recovery Act funds to their advantage, highlighted programs that are helping to improve services in their communities and other ways to improve service delivery with declining revenues.