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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RCAP Joins Coalition Partners in Unity around Farm Bill Rural Development Title

Washington, DC (August 3, 2018) – As the United States Congress continues conference negotiations regarding the five-year comprehensive Farm Bill, the Rural Community Assistance Partnership, Inc. (RCAP) joined their colleagues within the Campaign for a Renewed Rural Development (CRRD) in sending a letter of support to both the Senate and House Committees on Agriculture advocating for the Rural Development Title in both bill versions.

The letter written by thirteen organizations urges the Farm Bill Conference Committees to include specific provisions that underscore key priorities necessary for rural communities. The provisions, included in the Rural Development Title of both the Senate- and House-passed Farm Bills for their final versions, charge the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary with providing technical assistance to communities in developing strategic community investment plans. The provisions also strengthen critical rural infrastructure and technical assistance funding for USDA's Water and Environmental Programs, with priority given to rural communities facing serious staff capacity and water contamination issues.

The bipartisan provisions increase support in programs benefiting rural communities and their economic development and are needed now more than ever. Ted Stiger, Director of Government Relations and Policy for RCAP says, "The Farm Bill is important not just for farmers, but for the quality of life for all rural Americans. The Farm Bill authorizes important USDA-Rural Development programs that assist small communities with building hard infrastructure, fostering business development and economic growth, and assistance with housing."

RCAP is a strong partner in the Campaign for Renewed Rural Development (CRRD) and appreciates the National Association of Counties (NACo) for its leadership in convening this letter on behalf of rural priorities throughout the United States. The work being done by RCAP and its counterparts is essential to maintaining the quality of life for many Americans around the country.

RCAP is a national non-profit network reaching rural and small communities in all fifty states, U.S. territories, and tribal lands to improve quality of life by starting at the tap. RCAP's work to help create vibrant, healthy, sustainable, and resilient rural communities across America. To learn more about RCAP, visit www.rcap.org.

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