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BARRE BENEFITS FROM 2002 FARM BILL FUNDING

BARRE, MA – In his second of three announcements today regarding the 2002 Farm Bill, USDA Rural Development State Director, David Tuttle presented over \$900,000 in federal funding to the Town of Barre today. The \$501,600 low-interest loan and \$410,400 grant were made available when President Bush signed the 2002 Farm Bill into law on May 13 of this year and will be used to make improvements at Barre's wastewater treatment facility. Mr. Tuttle also announced funding for projects in the towns of Winchendon and Warren.

The Town of Barre will use the federal loan and grant to repair its wastewater treatment facility, which serves 1,795 users. The town will also install an equalization basin at its existing wastewater treatment facility that will provide a more constant water flow. The funds will also be used to install new sludge pumps and an aeration system. "We at Rural Development are proud to be able to assist the Town of Barre with the upgrade of their wastewater treatment facility", said David Tuttle, State Director of Rural Development for Southern New England. "We would not be here today if it was not for the additional funding and support that we have received from Congress and President Bush".

Joining Mr. Tuttle for the presentation that took place on historic Barre Common was State Senator, Stephen Brewer, Tricia Paulsen from Congressman John Olver's office; Sewer Commission members, Kathy Inman, John DiPilato, Paul Donahue; Select Board members, Kurt Wells, Richard Stevens, Charles Chase and other town officials.

Without programs like the Farm Bill, small towns like Barre would be unable to fund improvements to town facilities," said Senator Brewer. "The funding that Barre received today will allow the town to provide much needed improvements to its wastewater treatment facility."

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The Rural Development Water and Waste Disposal provision in the 2002 Farm Bill helps to make available the necessary resources to establish water and waste disposal facilities that are compliant with federal and state environmental standards. More information on the 2002 Farm Bill and its provisions are available at: <http://www.usda.gov/farbill>.

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