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DOUGLAS WATER SYSTEM GETS BOOST FROM **2002 FARM BILL**

Douglas, MA - State Director of USDA Rural Development, David Tuttle arrived in Douglas today with Massachusetts State Senator Richard Moore, State Representative Paul Kujawski, and a representative from Congressman Richard Neal's office to present a check for \$580,000 to the town's Executive Administrator, Kenneth Mahony. The federal funding, presented on behalf of President George W. Bush and Secretary of Agriculture, Ann Veneman, is available to Douglas through the enactment of the 2002 Farm Bill and was presented in the form of a \$206,500 low-interest loan and a \$373,500 grant. The town will use the federal funds to replace an old water main and install approximately 7,000 linear feet of new water main on Davis Street and Main Street.

The 2002 Farm Bill, which was signed into law by President Bush on May 13, 2002, provided Rural Development with over \$700 million nationally to fund water and wastewater projects. 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.

"We are very pleased to be able to provide these funds to Douglas," said USDA Rural Development State Director, David Tuttle. "Projects such as these are essential to the quality of life in every rural town and Rural Development stands firmly behind its commitment to continue to provide financial assistance to rural communities like Douglas."

As a result of the installation of the new water main, the hydraulic capacity of Douglas's water distribution system will increase and consequently provide additional water resources to the towns' fire department. The project will also provide a safe, reliable water source for the towns' new high school.

"Providing safe drinking water for our citizens is a major governmental responsibility," said State Senator Richard Moore. "I commend all who worked hard to make these needed funds available."

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“This is good news for Douglas,” said Representative Paul Kujawski. “The low-interest loan and grant will keep the cost to ratepayers down and provide an essential service to this community.”

More information on the 2002 Farm Bill and its provisions are available at: <http://www.usda.gov/farbill>

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