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OBAMA ADMINISTRATION NAMES JIM NORDLUND TO SERVE AS STATE DIRECTOR FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN ALASKA

WASHINGTON, June 29, 2009 -- The Obama Administration today announced that Jim Nordlund will serve as Alaska State Director for Rural Development at the USDA.

"Jim Nordlund will be an important advocate on behalf of rural communities throughout the state and help administer the valuable programs and services provided by the USDA that can enhance their economic success," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack.

Nordlund owns Nordlund Carpentry, LLC, a small business that specializes in residential construction and remodeling in Anchorage, Alaska. Previously, he was the Director of Public Assistance for the state of Alaska's Department of Health and Social Services where he oversaw 500 employees and a \$250 million budget. Nordlund served as a state representative in Alaska and is an active board member on power and energy associations based in his home state. Nordlund was also Vice-Chairman of Chugach Electrical Association. He holds a Master of Public Administration from the University of Colorado and a bachelor's degree in government from St. John's University in Minnesota.

Rural Development administers and manages over 40 housing, business, and community infrastructure and facility programs as laid out by Congress through a network of 6,100 employees located in 500 national, state and local offices. These programs are designed to improve the economic stability of rural communities, businesses, residents, farmers and ranchers and improve the quality of life in rural America. Rural Development has an existing portfolio of over \$114 billion in loans and loan guarantees.

The USDA provides leadership on food, agriculture and natural resources and touches the life of every American. Reflecting President Obama's commitment to expanding economic opportunities in rural America, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack and the USDA are working to enhance availability of broadband, promote the development of renewable energy, to conserve, maintain and improve our natural resources and environment, and promote a sustainable, safe, sufficient and nutritious food supply.