



NEWS RELEASE

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Obama Administration Names Vicki Walker to Serve as State Director for Rural Development in Oregon

WASHINGTON, October 30, 2009 – The Obama Administration today announced that Vicki Walker will serve as Oregon State Director for Rural Development at the USDA.

“Vicki Walker 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.

Walker, from Eugene, Oregon, has served as a State Senator since 2003, where she led a successful effort to significantly increase investment in Oregon’s public schools. She also helped pass legislation to prevent racial profiling by law enforcement. Walker chaired the Senate Committee on Education and General Government and Senate Committee on Education and Workforce Development. In 2007, she won the Legislator of the Year Award from the Special Districts Association of Oregon. She was a Presidential Fellow as well that year. From 1999 to 2003, Walker served in Oregon’s Legislative Assembly as State Representative. During her time in the Assembly, she played a major role in passing legislation creating a pesticide use reporting system in the state. Ms. Walker has operated her own reporting firm since 1983. For over two decades, she has provided court reporting services to grand juries, federal courts, and attorneys in Oregon. She earned a B.S degree from the University of Oregon and is a certified Shorthand Reporter.

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.

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