



NEWS RELEASE

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Obama Administration Names Alan Stephens to Serve as State Director for Rural Development in Arizona

WASHINGTON, October 6, 2009 – The Obama Administration today announced that Alan Stephens will serve as Arizona State Director for Rural Development at the USDA.

“Alan Stephens 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.

Stephens is returning to the role of Arizona Director of Rural Development after serving in the position under the Clinton Administration. Recently, Stephens has served as a policy advisor to the Arizona Corporations Commissioner and as Chief of Staff to Governor Napolitano. During his time in the Governor’s Administration, he oversaw major agencies ranging from Arizona’s health services to the local housing administration. He also chaired the Governor’s Growth Cabinet. Stephens was the Majority Leader in the Arizona State Senate in the early nineties before getting appointed for his first term as Rural Development Director. Stephens also served as Director of Finance for the Community Care Network in Phoenix from 1977 to 1988, where he managed a multi-million dollar budget and negotiated contracts with dozens of community care providers.

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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