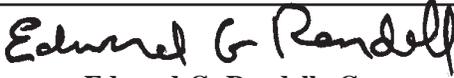


COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
EXECUTIVE ORDER

Subject: GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RURAL AFFAIRS		Number: 2007-09
Date: October 2, 2007	By Direction of:  Edward G. Rendell, Governor	

WHEREAS, one-third of Pennsylvania's population is rural, widely dispersed across 70 percent of the Commonwealth's land mass; and

WHEREAS, maintaining and expanding opportunities for rural communities and their residents significantly impacts and strengthens the economic, social, and cultural welfare of Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, an advocate is required that provides the leadership and framework to address the unique needs of rural communities and promotes equal access to public and private opportunities politically, economically, and institutionally to sustain a rewarding quality of life for rural residents; and

WHEREAS, the Pennsylvania Rural Development Council was constituted to serve as a neutral forum where representatives of the private and nonprofit sectors and of all government agencies — federal, state, and local — can individually and cooperatively address issues of concern to the rural areas of the Commonwealth.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Edward G. Rendell, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and other laws, do hereby formally create within the Governor's Executive Offices, the **Governor's Advisory Council on Rural Affairs** (hereinafter referred to as the "Council") as an advocate for rural Pennsylvanians and do hereby order and direct as follows:

1. Functions. The Council shall:

a. Seek to build and foster inclusive, collaborative partnerships and networks of diverse individuals and organizations to improve the coordination and effectiveness of federal, state, and other programs, services, and actions affecting rural areas in Pennsylvania. To this end, the Council shall serve as a liaison to federal, state, and local government agencies to ensure that programs affecting rural Pennsylvanians are effectively utilized and that benefits are available to all rural citizens.

b. Foster expanded economic and social opportunities for Pennsylvania's rural residents. In this regard, the Council and its partners shall identify opportunities for and impediments to

such expansion and develop strategies for taking advantage of opportunities and overcoming impediments. The Council shall develop, review, and recommend policies to the Governor to promote expanded economic and social opportunities for rural Pennsylvania.

c. Serve as a vehicle for collective advocacy on behalf of Pennsylvania's rural communities and their residents.

d. Promote intergovernmental cooperation.

e. Promote community-based problem-solving strategies which include all ideas, resources, and expertise without regard to traditional distinctions among units, agencies, or levels of government. Further, these strategies anticipate inclusion in the problem-solving process, all individuals, organizations, and agencies with contributions to make for the advancement of the common good.

f. Advise the Governor, agencies, organizations, and other entities on issues affecting rural communities and their residents.

g. Serve as a resource for private and nonprofit organizations on rural issues, programs, and available sources of technical and financial assistance.

2. Composition of the Council.

a. The Council shall consist of a Board of Directors comprised of 30 members, with six each representing the private sector, the nonprofit sector, local government agencies, state government agencies, and federal government agencies. All members of the Board of Directors shall be appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the Governor. Members of the Board of Directors may continue to serve in their positions only so long as they shall be a member of the group from which they were chosen.

b. The Governor shall designate three co-chairs representing state, federal, and local governments; co-chairs will serve at the pleasure of the Governor.

c. The Governor shall appoint an Executive Director who will serve at the pleasure of the Governor.

d. Compensation. Members of the Council shall receive no compensation for their services, except that such members may be reimbursed for actual travel and related expenses in accordance with Commonwealth policy.

3. Terms of Membership.

a. Members shall be appointed for a term of two years. All members shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor.

b. Should a vacancy occur on the Council due to resignation, disability, or death of a member, a successor may be appointed by the Governor to serve the duration of the unexpired term. A successor so appointed may thereafter be reappointed.

4. Procedures.

a. The Council is authorized to establish committees and procedures for the effective implementation of its functions consistent with this order.

b. The Council shall submit reports and policy recommendations as it deems necessary that would assist in the preservation or enhancement of the quality of life for rural citizens and communities.

c. The Council may hold public hearings in order to evaluate the effectiveness of Commonwealth services and programs to Pennsylvania's rural citizens and communities.

5. Relationship with other agencies.

a. The Council shall seek to develop good working relationships with federal and local government agencies so that the Council's mission to promote intergovernmental cooperation and coordination may be achieved to the greatest extent possible.

b. All agencies under the Governor's jurisdiction shall fully cooperate with and provide assistance as requested by the Council to properly carry out its power and duties.

6. Effective Date.

This order shall take effect immediately and shall continue in effect unless revised or modified by the Governor.

7. Rescission.

Executive Order 1999-2 is hereby rescinded.