EXECUTIVE ORDER REGARDING THE RURAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL

WHEREAS, the Governor's Rural Affairs Council was created in 1986 to maintain the rural emphasis in Illinois government, strengthen the rural economy, increase the capacity of viability of local governments and improve education and human service opportunities in Illinois; and

WHEREAS, these goals remain priorities of the State of Illinois in order to improve the capacity and viability of rural residents into the 21st Century; and

WHEREAS, the needs of rural residents and communities vary greatly from one part of the State to another; and

WHEREAS, the rural challenges and opportunities continue to evolve over time; and

WHEREAS, rural residents are best served by a comprehensive approach to rural development and planning;

THEREFORE, I, George H. Ryan, hereby order the following:

The Governor's Rural Affairs Council shall include the Illinois Departments of Aging, Agriculture, Commerce and Community Affairs, Employment Security, Human Services, Natural Resources, Public Health, Transportation, Environmental Protection Agency, Community College Board, State Board of Education, University of Illinois Cooperative Extension Service, the Farm Development, Development Finance and Housing Development Authorities, Southern Illinois University, Rural Partners, the Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs, and the Illinois Rural Bond Bank. Membership may be expanded at the discretion of the Governor, however, membership shall not exceed a total of 20 members.

The Governor’s Rural Affairs Council shall be chaired by Lieutenant Governor Corinne Wood.

The Chair of the Governor's Rural Affairs Council may appoint representatives from government, private industry and not-for-profit organizations to serve on Council committees and to provide input to the Council as a whole.

The Governor's Rural Affairs Council shall develop and implement a comprehensive strategy for improving delivery of state services to rural Illinois with the aim of expanding opportunities and improving the quality of life for rural residents.

This Executive Order Number 1 (2000) shall be effective upon filing with the Secretary of State.