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March 12, 2009

Dear Colleagues,

The South Central Assembly is revitalizing our Agriculture & Land Use Committee. This Committee was formed by a merger of the Assembly's Agricultural Preservation Committee and the Land Use & Growth Management Committee. Under the leadership of Chairman Boyd Wolff, we have been reviewing the Committee's vision and mission statements as well as the membership.

The revitalized Agriculture & Land Use Committee will build on the accomplishments of the predecessor committees. These included regional roundtables, forums on topics specific to agricultural and land use issues, as well as meetings related to the 10,000 Friends of Pennsylvania's project *Back to Prosperity*.

In addition, the Committee will incorporate input on the needs from representatives through a roundtable discussion of agriculture and land use related initiatives which may or may not be underway throughout our eight-county region. Based on the discussion, the group will prioritize needs based on those that are already being addressed by partner organizations and those that remain unmet. From this meeting, the SCA will identify initiatives which will serve as the renewed focus for the Ag & Land Use Committee. Attendees will also be invited to serve on this ongoing Committee based on their interest and willingness.

Since your organization is a key stakeholder in agriculture and land use initiatives, we urge you to join us for this roundtable discussion scheduled for **Tuesday, March 31, 2009, at the Wildwood Center, Poplar Lounge (first floor) from 1:30 – 3:30 pm.** If you are not the best person to appropriately represent your organization, please forward the invitation to the individual whom you believe would best represent your organization on this subject.

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South Central Assembly • Penn State Harrisburg • Church Hall • 777 West Harrisburg Pike • Middletown, PA 17057

Previous Committee meetings dealt with issues of current concern to the agrarian community as well as planners focused on land use and growth management. We are anxious to reconvene with you and other interested parties to hear your ideas on moving forward, in mapping a plan of action, and for educating and assisting this very important community. If you would like your organization to be represented on this committee but don't have the time to commit, please consider sending a representative on your behalf. This representative does not need to be someone from your staff, but could be a community leader whom you trust and would like to encourage. Delegating representation in this manner would retain representation for your organization, ensure a voice for your interests, and recognize community leadership in your area.

I look forward to seeing you at our meeting on the 31st. Please RSVP to me at (717) 720-4066 or via email at s.b.zimmerman@iup.edu by close of business March 25, 2009. In order to update our records, we ask that you include the following with your RSVP:

Name of Representative
Organization
Mailing address
Office phone number
Best contact phone number (if different)
Email address.

If you have any questions or comments about the Committee or our March 31st meeting, please feel free to contact Ann Simonetti at asimonetti@comcast.net or (717) 991-1393

Yours truly,

Sherry B. Zimmerman
Executive Director