



# NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture • Rural Development  
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## **KATHERINE KELLEY POOLE NAMED DIRECTOR FOR LEGISLATIVE AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

WASHINGTON, July 26, 2007—Agriculture Under Secretary for Rural Development Thomas C. Dorr today announced the selection of Katherine Kelley Poole as Director of Legislative and Public Affairs for USDA Rural Development. Poole will serve as the central point of contact for legislative and public affairs for USDA Rural Development's housing, business, renewable energy and utility programs.

"Kelley's state and national leadership in government and public relations will be a tremendous asset to our team as we continue our mission in Rural America to bring economic opportunities and a greater quality of life to rural residents and communities," said Dorr.

Poole, of Upper Marlboro, Md., joined USDA in 2003. She has served in the Office of the White House Liaison and most recently as a special assistant to the Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition & Consumer Services (FNCS). During her tenure at USDA, Poole held a key role in the development, planning and implementation of both FNCS internal and external strategic communications. She provided integral support to a variety of high priority issues including national and international hunger awareness and the rollout of the [MyPyramid.gov](http://MyPyramid.gov) Federal Food Guidance System. Prior to joining USDA, Poole served in public affairs roles with the Departments of Defense and Labor as well as leading the public and business relations initiatives of the U.S. Trade & Development Agency. She began her career in public service working for the State of Florida in various capacities including Chief Cabinet Aide to the Florida Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Senior Legislative Analyst and Staff Director for the Majority Office of the Florida Senate. Poole previously worked in Washington, D.C. as a staff member to former U.S. Representative Charles T. Canady of Florida.

Poole earned a Bachelors degree in economics from Florida State University and successfully completed Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government Leaders in Development program.

USDA Rural Development's mission is to increase economic opportunity and improve the quality of life for rural residents. Rural Development has invested more than \$76.8 billion since 2001 for equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure. More than 1.5 million jobs have been created or saved through these investments. Further information on rural programs is available at a local USDA Rural Development office or by visiting USDA's web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>.

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