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**PRESIDENT OBAMA ANNOUNCES NOMINEE FOR ADMINISTRATOR OF
RURAL DEVELOPMENT'S RURAL UTILITIES PROGRAM**

WASHINGTON, March 25, 2009 - President Barack Obama has nominated Federal Communications Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein to become Administrator of USDA Rural Development's Rural Utilities Service.

As Administrator, Adelstein will be responsible for all USDA Rural Development Utilities programs including Telecommunications, Electric Loan, and Water and Environmental, and Distance Learning and Telemedicine programs.

"Jonathan Adelstein brings a wealth of experience to this position," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. "USDA is eager to have him join the Department and begin the important work of fulfilling the President's pledge to bring increased and improved telecommunications service, including broadband, to rural areas."

USDA Rural Development works to bring improved utilities and community infrastructure to rural communities. In 2008, the agency invested over \$20.7 billion in rural America through its programs.

Jonathan Adelstein is currently a Commissioner of the Federal Communications Commission, where he has led efforts to improve rural telecommunications and broadband. He has served at the FCC since 2002 and was confirmed to a second term in 2004. Adelstein has been a leading advocate for a substantive national broadband strategy with aggressive goals and specific policy recommendations. He has also played an active role at the Commission in promoting new policies that improve access to spectrum by both large and small companies so that consumers can continue to maintain those connections in an increasingly portable world.

Before joining the Commission, Adelstein served for 15 years as a staff member in the United States Senate, including his final seven years with former Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle (D-SD), advising him on telecommunications, financial services, housing, transportation and other key issues.

Prior to that, he served as Professional Staff Member to Senate Special Committee on Aging Chairman David Pryor (D-AR), including an assignment as a special liaison to Senator Harry Reid (D-NV), and earlier as a Legislative Assistant to Senator Donald W. Riegle, Jr. (D-MI). Before his service in the Senate, he was a Teaching Fellow in the Department of History, Harvard University, while studying at the Kennedy School of Government; a Teaching Assistant in the Department of History, Stanford University; and a Communications Consultant to the Stanford Graduate School of Business.

Adelstein received an M.A. in History and a B.A. with Distinction in Political Science from Stanford University. Born and raised in Rapid City, S.D., he and his wife, Karen, have two children, Adam and Lexi.

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