

Barbara Petty, Chair University of Idaho  
Blake Naughton, Secretary and Chair-elect Colorado State University  
Cody Stone, Past Chair Montana State University

Wendy Powers, ECOP Representative to  
WEDA Executive Committee University of California  
Doreen Hauser-Lindstrom, Executive Director  
Washington State University

January 19, 2022

## A PROCLAMATION

### **Celebrating the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Passage of the Rural Development Act of 1972 and Its Establishment of Research and Education Programs to Revitalize and Develop Rural America**

*WHEREAS* the thirtieth of August, in the year two thousand twenty-two, marks the fiftieth anniversary of the passage of the *Rural Development Act of 1972* (“the Act”) by the Congress of the United States (Public Law 92-419, published at 86 Stat. 657); and

*WHEREAS* title V of the Act, named *Rural Development and Small Farm Research and Education*, has as its purpose “to foster a balanced national development that provides opportunities for increased numbers of the people of the United States to work and enjoy a high quality of life dispersed throughout our Nation by providing the essential knowledge necessary for successful programs of rural development” (§501, now as amended at 7 U.S.C. 2661); and

*WHEREAS* the four Regional Rural Development Centers act as one-stop entities to connect the nationwide network of Land-Grant college and university researchers, educators, and practitioners, that they may provide science-based information and hands-on, community-level programming designed to help rural communities make science-based investments for economic development, and position the United States as a global economic leader; and

*WHEREAS* in this fiftieth year since the Act’s passage the country’s four Regional Rural Development Centers are: the North Central Regional Center for Rural Development, based at Purdue University and serving 12 states through 34 Land-Grant colleges and universities; the Southern Rural Development Center, based at Mississippi State University and serving 13 states, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands through 30 Land-Grant colleges and universities; the Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development, based at the Pennsylvania State University and serving 12 states and the District of Columbia through 16 Land-Grant colleges and universities; and, the Western Rural Development Center, based at Utah State University and serving 13 states, American Samoa, Guam, Micronesia, and the Northern Marianas through 30 Land-Grant college and universities; and

*WHEREAS* the four Regional Centers bring together the most innovative minds from inside and outside the Land-Grant University system to address cutting-edge issues, without regard to state boundaries, and contribute significantly to scientific knowledge related to rural development: and

*WHEREAS* collectively, the four centers have collaborated regionally and nationally to: conduct innovative research and develop programs which strengthen economic vitality; create resilient, healthy, and equitable communities; enhance quality of life; support the development of rural workforces and leaders; harness technological innovation; promote balanced use of natural resources; and advance e-connectivity for rural America; and



*WHEREAS* many localities, states, and regional bodies are celebrating this fiftieth anniversary of the *Rural Development Act of 1972* with resolutions and proclamations, and all the Regional Centers are commemorating the signing of this historic legislation, as it addresses the needs of rural communities;  
*NOW THEREFORE, BE IT*

*PROCLAIMED* that the Western Extension Directors Association recognizes the significant contributions of the Regional Rural Development Centers over the past 50 years and looks to them for leadership as they play a significant role in the continued vibrancy of rural America; and

*PROCLAIMED*, that the Western Extension Directors Association encourages the people of the United States to observe and celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the passage of the *Rural Development Act of 1972*; and

*PROCLAIMED*, that the Western Extension Directors Association calls for continued collaboration and cooperation among Federal, state, and local governments, institutions of higher education, and community organizations to ensure special effort is made to address the needs of rural communities; and

*PROCLAIMED* that the Western Extension Directors Association celebrates the millions of youths, adults, families, farmers and ranchers, community leaders, and others who have benefited from the Extension, teaching and research programs provided by the Regional Rural Development Centers as national treasures and indispensable investments of which we as a Nation are proud.

*IN WITNESS WHEREOF*, I, Dr. Barbara Petty, Chair has hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the Western Extension Directors Association on this twentieth day of January in the year two thousand twenty-two.