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*Action-  
Learning for  
the Rural  
Family  
Economic  
Success  
(RuFES)  
Action  
Network*

*Sponsored by  
the Annie E.  
Casey  
Foundation*

*Coordinated  
by the Aspen  
Institute  
Community  
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Group*

**May 6, 2010****Dear RuFES Action Network,****EARN IT, KEEP IT and GROW IT****National Summit of Rural America: A Chance to be Heard**

This week, the Obama Administration announced that Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack will host a **National Summit of Rural America: A Dialogue for Renewing Promise**. This one-day event will be held on **June 3, 2010** on the campus of Jefferson College in Hillsboro, Missouri near St. Louis.

Anyone can register **free of charge** for the Summit—but space is limited by the capacity of the venue. So read on if you want to show up and be heard!

The Summit is planned as a *Learn It, See It* and *Share It* event. Secretary Vilsack is billing the Summit as an exchange of ideas, not simply an opportunity for policymakers to give speeches. He says, "The Summit will be an opportunity for rural Americans to share their vision for creating a more prosperous and promising future for rural America. Now farmers, ranchers and foresters from throughout the country can have the opportunity to engage with key policymakers and community leaders to discuss the priorities and policies necessary to keep its future bright."

Participants at the National Summit of Rural America will take part in plenary and breakout sessions on a number of issues including:

- rebuilding and revitalizing rural America
- creating new jobs
- improving infrastructure
- improving farm competitiveness
- encouraging innovation in renewable energy

National policymakers will take the opinions and ideas from Summit participants back to Washington for inclusion into future program and policy discussions.

If you want to attend, [register now!](#) Again, the number of people who can participate will be limited by the capacity of the venue and breakout sessions, so acting early makes sense.

John Molinaro of your own RuFES Action Team has already signed up. Let us know if you're coming and we'll form a RuFES caucus.

We hope these Action Alerts energize your RuFES deeds and aspirations. Help us spark **more** RuFES action! How? Simply [contact us](#) with any news, ideas or opportunities that can help your RuFES colleagues across the nation.

Your RuFES Action Team,

[John Molinaro](#), [Janet Topolsky](#), [Kelly Malone](#), [René Bryce-Laporte](#), [Elsa Noterman](#)  
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