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## **Commissioner Lynum Joins Secretary Vilsack at Rainbow PUSH to Promote Broadband Adoption**

**ORLANDO, FL** – Commissioner Daisy Lynum, President of the National Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials (NBC-LEO) joined Secretary of Agriculture Thomas Vilsack as a panelist at an Urban Stimulus Town Hall Meeting held during the Rainbow PUSH Coalition and Citizenship Education Fund's 38<sup>th</sup> Annual convention in Chicago, Illinois on June 28, 2009.

The panelists discussed stimulus funds for broadband deployment, access and adoption in unserved and underserved communities. Commissioner Lynum shared the Black community's concerns that the stimulus funds will not reach the communities most needing broadband training, computers and adoption assistance. Secretary Vilsack advised the Commissioner that broadband rules will be available online this week and if we understand the rules we can probably better access stimulus funds.

Secretary Vilsack reported that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has a 25% minority participation goal. He also suggested that Commissioner Lynum meet with Secretary Locke of the Department of Commerce. Commissioner Lynum has already requested a meeting with Secretary Locke and has invited him to join her in Hartford, Connecticut, during a 90 minute broadband workshop at the National Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials (NBC-LEO) Summer Meeting.

Rainbow/PUSH, a merger of two non-profit organizations – Operation PUSH (People United to Save Humanity) and the National Rainbow Coalition – founded by Reverend Jesse Jackson, pursues social justice, civil rights and political activism.

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