



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Onorato, Erickson and reps from Obama Administration to speak at Building One PA Conference**

Lancaster, July 14, 2010 – More than 600 people from every corner of the state have registered to attend the Building One Pennsylvania Conference, and confirmed participants include federal officials and members of the state House and Senate policy committees, event organizers announced Wednesday.

Building One Pennsylvania, a statewide summit on regional opportunity, is set for 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. July 16 at Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology in Lancaster.

Federal officials scheduled to speak include Deputy Secretary John Porcari from the U.S. Department of Transportation and General Deputy Assistant Secretary Bryan Greene from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. State officials who have committed to participate include Democratic gubernatorial candidate Dan Onorato; State Sen. Ted Erickson (R-Delaware County), majority chairman of the Senate Policy Committee; and State Rep. Mike Sturla (D-Lancaster County), majority chairman of the House Policy Committee.

A coalition made up of organizations from across the state is trying to reframe the discussion of policy for state and local governments. The core issues have primarily to do with reinvesting in first-ring suburbs and the downtowns of boroughs and cities, all of which are facing common problems: aging infrastructure, struggling schools, sprawl, rising taxes and often a lack of regional cooperation.

Myron Orfield, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution and an expert in land-use planning and municipal governance, will outline policy strategies to reverse decline in older communities.

The non-partisan coalition has organized the summit so that state leaders hear what communities across the state are saying on these issues and begin conversations about finding substantive new ways to deal with these common challenges that are detrimental to the state's overall economic health.

Organizations involved in convening Building One Pennsylvania include 10,000 Friends of Pennsylvania, Good Schools Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania Council of Churches, Southeastern Pennsylvania First Suburbs Project and YorkCounts.

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## IF YOU GO

What: Building One Pennsylvania, a statewide summit on regional opportunity

When: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. July 16. Doors open at 9 a.m.

Where: Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology, 750 E. King St., Lancaster. The meeting will be in the college's Multi-Purpose Activity Center.

How much: Registration is \$15 and includes lunch.

For more information: Contact Good Schools Pennsylvania by phone at 866-720-4086 or by e-mail at [buildingonepa@gmail.com](mailto:buildingonepa@gmail.com). Contact Dan Fink at YorkCounts at 717-650-1460 or at [dfink@yorkcounts.org](mailto:dfink@yorkcounts.org). Search for Building One Pennsylvania on Facebook.

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YorkCounts is a community-based coalition working to assess, sustain and enhance York County's quality of life – building alliances, introducing partners, spotlighting issues and facilitating conversations on education, economic development, health and safety and diversity. Partners include Better York, the United Way of York County, WellSpan Health, York College of Pennsylvania, the York County Commissioners, the York County Community Foundation and the York County Economic Development Corp. Learn more at [yorkcounts.org](http://yorkcounts.org).

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