

**Beth Brown, Director of Communications**  
404.522.5022 x.161 [bbrown@accg.org](mailto:bbrown@accg.org)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**REPRESENTATIVE JOHN LUNSFORD RECEIVES  
2009 LEGISLATIVE SERVICE AWARD FROM ACCG**

**ATLANTA, Ga. (June 16, 2009)** – State Representative John Lunsford (R-110), who represents parts of Butts, Henry and Newton counties, has received a 2009 Legislative Service Award from the Association County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG) for his efforts to enact legislation that changed a Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) policy that required local governments to remove unused asbestos pipes in the state right of way. Representative Lunsford accepted the award on Tuesday, June 16, 2009 during the Henry County Commission meeting.

“We appreciate Representative Lunsford’s willingness to fully understand this situation and to develop a solution that eliminates the potential for unnecessarily exposing asbestos pipe and is also far less costly for local governments and property taxpayers,” said ACCG Executive Director Jerry R. Griffin.

Earlier this year, GDOT staff adopted a policy that mandated local governments remove asbestos pipe that they no longer used in the state right of way. This mandate is not required by federal or state environmental agencies and would have cost local taxpayers millions of dollars. Leaving asbestos pipe in place and undisturbed poses little if any threat and is far less hazardous and costly than exposing, cutting and removing it.

ACCG presents Legislative Service Awards to recognize lawmakers who have demonstrated distinguished leadership and interest in working with county governments for the benefit of Georgia’s citizens. Presented annually, the award has gained recognition among elected and appointed officials as a prestigious way to acknowledge Georgia lawmakers for exemplary leadership.

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**About ACCG:** It is the mission of the Association County Commissioners of Georgia to enhance the role, stature and responsiveness of county government in Georgia. Since counties are the level of government closest to the people and serve all the people of the state, ACCG will promote the ability of Georgia counties to provide public services responsibly, efficiently, and cost effectively through cooperative legislative action, education of public officials, provision of quality member services and technical assistance, and increasing public awareness of critical local government issues. For more information, go to [www.accg.org](http://www.accg.org).