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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**REPRESENTATIVE RICK AUSTIN RECEIVES
2009 LEGISLATIVE SERVICE AWARD FROM ACCG**

ATLANTA, Ga. (June 17, 2009) – State Representative Rick Austin (R-10), who represents Habersham County and part of White County, has received a 2009 Legislative Service Award from the Association County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG) for his efforts to ensure that local governments continue to receive all of the unidentifiable sales tax proceeds. Representative Austin accepted the award on Monday, June 15, 2009 during the Habersham County Commission meeting.

During the 2009 legislative session, Representative Austin authored HB 181 which allows the Georgia Department of Revenue to continue to remit unidentifiable sales tax proceeds back to the local governments. Approximately \$18 million in unidentifiable sales taxes are expected to be distributed to local governments on a pro rata basis each year. The pro rata allocation of unidentifiable local sales tax proceeds has proven to be an efficient and equitable method for ensuring local taxing jurisdictions receive the proceeds of a tax local voters agreed to levy.

“As a former Habersham county commissioner, Representative Austin understands local government operations,” said ACCG Executive Director Jerry R. Griffin. “His actions this year ensure that the maximum amount of sales tax proceeds are put towards the projects approved by local voters.”

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.