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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**SENATOR STEVE HENSON RECEIVES  
2009 LEGISLATIVE SERVICE AWARD FROM ACCG**

**ATLANTA, Ga. (June 24, 2009)** – State Senator Steve Henson (D-41), who represents parts of DeKalb and Gwinnett counties, has received a 2009 Legislative Service Award from the Association County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG) for his sound judgment and leadership on complex issues that impact local government. Senator Henson accepted the award, which was presented by DeKalb County Commissioner Connie Stokes, on Tuesday, June 23, 2009 during the DeKalb County Commission meeting.

“Senator Steve Henson has long been a friend of local government, taxpayers and the environment,” said ACCG Executive Director Jerry R. Griffin. “This year, he especially looked out for local government interests when he helped to defeat a proposal that would have exempted state facilities from local stormwater fees that was added to a conference committee report late on the final day of the legislative session.”

State facilities currently are required to pay stormwater fees to the jurisdiction in which they are located. Counties and cities that implement them use stormwater fees, instead of property taxes, to pay for federal and state mandated stormwater management programs to protect the state’s water resources. It is a fee for a service required and provided. Had this legislation passed, the state’s portion of stormwater fees would have been shifted to other homeowners and businesses, costing both millions statewide.

“Allowing for a state exemption would have set a very dangerous precedent for state facilities to also get out of paying local water, sewer, garbage and other fees,” said ACCG Associate Legislative Director Todd Edwards.

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).