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FAYETTE COUNTY REPRESENTED AT RURAL SUMMIT

Uniontown, PA – Fayette County Commissioner Chairman Vincent Vicites attended the U.S. Senate Democratic Rural Summit in Washington, D.C. last week.

Hosted by the U.S. Democratic Steering and Outreach Committee, the summit is a chance for state and local officials to discuss issues important to rural America and learn how the federal government can help them.

“Fayette County has a lot of rural areas and faces a lot of the problems that exist in rural America,” Vicites said.

The summit featured panel discussions on the economy and health care in rural areas; an address by keynote speaker Gov. Ralph Northam of Virginia; and an interview with U.S. Sen. Amy Klobuchar, D-Minnesota, committee chairwoman, and journalist Sarah Smarsh, author of *Heartland: A Memoir of Working Hard and Being Broke in the Richest Country on Earth*.

Vicites, accompanied by his administrative assistant, Joe Ambrose, was the only elected official from southwestern Pennsylvania in attendance, having received an invitation from U.S. Sen. Bob Casey, D-Pennsylvania.

The summit, Vicites said, provided him with a “much more diverse understanding of issues” rural America faces as a whole.

“I learned a tremendous amount from this summit, over and above what I understood the problems to be in Fayette County,” he said.

Vicites also had the opportunity to speak about Fayette’s immediate need for rural broadband services.

“I felt as though I got their attention, particularly Sen. (Jeff) Merkley from Oregon, who was addressing a lot of the same issues in the morning session,” Vicites said.



Vicites said he feels he “represented the county well,” while networking with U.S. senators and other elected officials.

Fayette will benefit from the knowledge and materials Vicites gained from the summit, including the book *Investing in Rural America*, which will be used to help promote progress and economic opportunity in county communities.

For more information about the rural summit, visit www.democrats.senate.gov/dsoc.

To learn more about Fayette County, visit www.fayettedcountypa.info.

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