

STATE CAPITOL
Room 4117
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 319-2025
FAX (916) 319-2125

**ASSEMBLY
CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE**



DISTRICT OFFICE
1912 Standiford Ave., Ste. 4
Modesto, CA 95350
(209) 576-6425
FAX: (209) 576-6426

DAVE COGDILL

ASSEMBLYMEMBER, TWENTY-FIFTH DISTRICT

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Contact: Morgan Crinklaw
(916) 319-2025

**ASSEMBLYMAN COGDILL AND SENATOR POOCHIGIAN
REVIVE RURAL CAUCUS**

Legislators unite to act as a voice for rural communities

(Sacramento) – Assemblymember Dave Cogdill (R-Modesto) and Senator Chuck Poochigian (R-Fresno) announced today that they are revitalizing the Rural Legislative Caucus. This Caucus is a bipartisan group of legislators formed to advocate for the rural areas of California.

“The rural communities of California often feel as if their voice is not heard in Sacramento, and rightly so,” stated Cogdill. “These communities often carry the burden of unequal education funding, little choice in health care, and few incentives for business. It is time for this to change.” The “Rural Caucus” is a bipartisan group of Senators and Assembly members uniting to craft and promote legislation that will benefit rural communities.

“I am looking forward to working with my fellow Legislators representing rural California,” commented Senator Chuck Poochigian. “Together we will fight for those communities that deserve recognition and help.”

Assemblywoman Barbara Matthews (D-Stockton) is also planning on participating in this Caucus. “Rural communities are presented with many unique challenges that might otherwise be overlooked by our urban colleagues in the Legislature,” said Matthews. “The Rural Caucus will play an important role in educating our colleagues from urban counties who, for example, have never had the problem of accessing services such as healthcare.”

“It is refreshing finally to see legislators taking action for the enhancement, preservation, and protection of rural life,” stated Vern Moss, First Vice Chair of the Regional Council of Rural Counties. Cogdill and Poochigian look forward to working closely with the Regional Council of Rural Communities. A planning meeting will be held soon to begin the process of defining principles and electing officers.

Over one-third of the members in the State Legislature have rural communities in their districts. Assemblyman Cogdill and Senator Poochigian are hopeful all of these representatives will recognize the need for such an effort and take part in this process.

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