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PENNSYLVANIA STATE ASSOCIATION OF TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS

news release

April 15, 2019

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Former Rep. Kate Harper **Receives Chairman's Distinguished Service Award**

Former Rep. Kate Harper of Montgomery County received the Chairman's Distinguished Service Award this morning during the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors' Excellence Awards ceremony.

The event, which recognizes the significant achievements of township officials across the state, was held as part of PSATS' 97th Annual Educational Conference and Exhibit Show in Hershey. Today is the opening day of the conference, which attracts attendees from every county in Pennsylvania except Philadelphia, which has no townships.

The association's Executive Board established the Chairman's Distinguished Service Award in 2000 to honor individuals who offer their time and talents to help township officials and PSATS, the organization that represents them. The award is only presented for extraordinary service to the township association.

"Kate has had a long career working with local government and has been a tremendous supporter of townships and the association for many years," PSATS Executive Board Chairman and First Vice

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President Marvin Meteer said. “She began as a public servant in Lower Gwynedd Township, and she never forgot her local government roots once she became a member of the state legislature.”

In 2000, Harper was elected to the House of Representatives, where she served nine consecutive terms. While in office, she was chair of the House Local Government Committee and was appointed to the Local Government Commission.

Prior to her service as a representative, Harper was a supervisor in Lower Gwynedd Township, Montgomery County, for 13 years, chair of the Montgomery County Open Space Planning Board, and a member of the Montgomery County Planning Commission and the township’s planning commission. She was also a member of the Governor’s Conference on Trails and Greenways, served as president of the Montgomery County Association of Township Officials, and was chair of the PSATS Resolutions Committee. She received the PSATS President’s Leadership Award in 1999.

Now in private practice, Harper works in municipal law and serves as a municipal solicitor for several municipalities. She has previously spoken at PSATS conferences.

“As a former township supervisor, Kate understands the obligations and dedication of local officials,” Meteer said. “In her time as a state legislator, she repeatedly stood strong on issues that place an undue burden on local governments. Her faithfulness and commitment to townships have been unwavering throughout her career, and the association appreciates her steadfast support of local officials.”

The Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors represents Pennsylvania’s 1,454 townships of the second class and is committed to preserving and strengthening township government and securing greater visibility and involvement for townships in the state and federal political arenas. Townships of the second class represent more residents — 5.5 million Pennsylvanians — than any other type of political subdivision in the state and cover 95 percent of the commonwealth’s land mass.