

Beaufort County, South Carolina

NEWS RELEASE

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Beaufort County Council Member Mike Covert Meets With Congressional Leaders at NACo's Legislative Conference

Beaufort County Council Member Mike Covert joined nearly 2,000 other county leaders in Washington, D.C. for the National Association of Counties ([NACo](#)) Annual Legislative Conference earlier this month. Participants met with members of the Trump administration and Congress on key issues like disaster recovery, the opioid and substance abuse epidemic, broadband accessibility and revitalizing American infrastructure.

In meetings with lawmakers and administration officials, Council Member Covert helped to outline [several key federal policy priorities](#) including:

- Promoting county infrastructure priorities in a comprehensive infrastructure package;
- Supporting the Payments in Lieu of Taxes ([PILT](#)) and Secure Rural Schools (SRS) programs, which honor federal commitments to public lands and timber counties;
- Promoting mental health, substance use disorders treatment and criminal justice reform; and
- Boosting broadband deployment and accessibility while preserving local zoning authority.

"It is important to Beaufort County and to South Carolina that we have elected officials working on local and state issues at a national level," said Covert, who is a member of NACo's [Environment, Energy and Land Use Steering Committee](#) and Vice Chair of its sub-committee on water. Covert is also a member of the [Rural Action Caucus](#) and the [International Economic Development Task Force](#).

During subcommittee hearings, Covert gave several examples and background data of Beaufort County's resilience to natural disaster events and a local view on the re-writing of the [Waters of the United States \(WOTUS\) Act](#). "I am honored to have helped craft some of the language that is being inserted into the re-write of the WOTUS Act. We can look at that as it passes into law, and know that Beaufort County had a hand in that. We must continue to protect our waterways, yet, eliminate unnecessary and un-needed regulations from the federal government," Covert said.

Beaufort County is a longtime member of NACo, which unites America's 3,069 county governments, with a vision to achieve healthy, vibrant and safe counties across America. At the federal level, NACo works to increase, maintain, or create funding for programs that benefit county governments and their residents.

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