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*****PRESS RELEASE*****

National Organization Names State Auditor Otto Committee Chair

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ST. PAUL (7/17/2009) – Minnesota State Auditor Rebecca Otto has been named Chair of the Human Resources Committee of the National State Auditors Association (NSAA). NSAA President Debbie Davenport, Auditor General of Arizona, invited State Auditor Otto to serve as committee chair for 2009 and 2010. Auditor Otto has been a member of the Committee for the past two years.

“I am looking forward to continuing to work with other State Auditors from across the country in this capacity. Work force and succession planning issues have surfaced as the Baby Boomers retire,” State Auditor Otto said. “Recruiting and retaining a highly professional staff in state auditors’ offices can be challenging, and it requires proactive strategies. The increased workload created by the need to provide oversight of the Federal Stimulus Funds is the newest challenge. Add this increase in workload to the decrease in staffing levels caused by state budget shortfalls, and many state auditors’ offices have real issues. We have our work cut out for us.”

The NSAA Human Resources Committee works to promote best practices in the recruitment, advancement and retention of staff within state audit organizations. The committee does this by hosting quarterly information sharing conference calls and helping develop appropriate HR-related sessions for inclusion in NSAA’s training events.

The NSAA honored State Auditor Otto with the 2009 Excellence in Accountability Award for the Outstanding Special Project, *Best Practices Review: Reducing Energy Costs in Local Governments*, at their annual conference in Georgia last month.

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The Office of the State Auditor is a constitutional office that is charged with overseeing more than \$20 billion spent annually by local governments in Minnesota. The Office of the State Auditor does this by performing audits of local government financial statements, and by reviewing documents, data, reports, and complaints reported to the Office. The financial information collected from local governments is analyzed and is the basis of statutory reports issued by the Office of the State Auditor.

Rebecca Otto is Minnesota’s 18th State Auditor. A high-resolution official photo is available for download at http://www.auditor.state.mn.us/images/otto_hires.jpg. To learn more about State Auditor Otto, see <http://www.auditor.state.mn.us/default.aspx?page=bio>.