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NATIONAL  
ASSOCIATION OF  
COUNTY & CITY  
HEALTH OFFICIALS

June 7, 2004

Dr. John O. Agwunobi, MD, MBA  
Secretary of Health  
Florida Department of Health  
2585 Merchants Row Blvd. Suite 140  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

Dear Dr. Agwunobi:

The National Association of County and City Health Official's *Protocol for Assessing Community Excellence in Environmental Health (PACE EH)* guidebook provides a methodology that offers local public health officials a valuable and largely unique approach to environmental health improvement through community collaboration and empowerment. However, it is a tool that requires long range planning, keen promotion, and a degree of visionary leadership to achieve its greatest potential. Ultimately, the *PACE EH* process seeks to establish a broader, more proactive, holistic public health approach to addressing local environmental health priorities. The work of the local public health officials and communities in Florida, supported by the Department of Health's Division of Environmental Health, indicate that they are well on their way to achieving this lofty ambition.

As such, it is with great honor that the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) acknowledges your outstanding contribution to improving the environmental health status of Floridians. By committing the Florida State Department of Health to the development and support of a statewide *PACE EH* program, you have ensured that community members across the state will become actively involved in identifying and acting upon local priority environmental health issues. Further, you are supporting the development of a vastly improved local environmental health workforce, one that has stronger bonds with the communities they serve and more comprehensive partnerships with the many agencies and institutions that impact the daily lives of all Floridians.

Thank you for your service to the health of Florida communities and the support of local public health in your state.

Sincerely,

Patrick M. Libbey  
Executive Director, NACCHO

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