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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Gerdes Appointed to State Highway Commission

Mary K. Gerdes of Johnson, Nebraska, was recently appointed by Governor Pete Ricketts to serve as District 1 Commissioner on the Nebraska State Highway Commission. District 1 includes Butler, Cass, Gage, Jefferson, Johnson, Lancaster, Nemaha, Otoe, Pawnee, Richardson, Saline, Saunders, and Seward counties. Gerdes will complete the term of Rodney Vandeberg who passed away in May 2015 after serving on the Commission since 2008. The term runs through the fall of 2017.

Gerdes is a graduate of Johnson High School and attended Peru State College. She and her husband, Dan, have been in the agriculture industry since 1959. Together, they currently own and operate an 800 acre grain production farm in Southeast Nebraska. Until retiring from the pork business in 2006, they also owned and operated a 2,400 sow pork production operation.

In addition to her business interests, Gerdes is active in community, church, and agriculture organizations. She is a current member of Nebraska Ag Builders and served on the Board of Directors from 2001 to 2006. Gerdes was appointed to the State Committee for Nebraska Farm Service Agency by President George W. Bush in 2000 and served until 2008. In 2000, she served on the Board of Directors of the Nebraska Pork Producers Association. From 1978 to 1984 and again from 1991 to 1997, she served on the Board of Directors for the Nebraska Farm Bureau Federation.

Gerdes and her husband received the SE Quad County Pork Achievement Award in 1980 and the State of Nebraska Soil and Water Stewardship Award in 1989. Additionally, she received the SE Quad County Pork Producers Bell Ringer Award in 1998.

Among its duties, the State Highway Commission conducts hearings, investigations, and studies in an effort to provide adequate and safe highways in the state. Its eight members serve in an advisory role to the director of the Nebraska Department of Roads.

#NDOR#

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