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

State Auditor Rebecca Otto to Receive National Award

*~ Best Practices Review on Reducing Energy Costs Selected for 2009 Excellence in
Accountability Award ~*

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ST. PAUL (5/11/2009) – The National State Auditors Association (NSAA) announced that the *Best Practices Review: Reducing Energy Costs in Local Government* issued by State Auditor Rebecca Otto in July of 2008 has won a prestigious 2009 NSAA Excellence in Accountability Award in the Special Projects category.

“NSAA is privileged to recognize some of the most innovative thinking in the current state auditing environment,” said Tom McTavish, Michigan’s Auditor General and Chair of the NSAA Excellence in Accountability Awards Committee, in a statement announcing the award. “The competition was very close in every category, and each applicant is to be commended for the levels of professional integrity, quality, and innovation that are apparent throughout NSAA’s member offices.”

“In the current economic climate, and the Obama Administration’s focus on renewable energy and energy conservation, this Review is very timely,” said State Auditor Rebecca Otto. “Local government budgets are tight, and many state budgets are in deficit. This makes reducing energy costs for thousands of local governments across the State of Minnesota even more important. I look forward to sharing this Review with other State Auditors.”

The Award will be presented at the 2009 NSAA Annual Conference in Savannah, Georgia in June.

The Best Practices Review can be found online at:

<http://www.auditor.state.mn.us/default.aspx?page=20080702.001>.

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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>.