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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## Keep America Beautiful Presents State Agency Partner Awards to PA Department of Environmental Protection, PA Department of Transportation

PA Department of Environmental Protection and PA Department of Transportation Recognized for Supporting the 2019 Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful Great American Cleanup of PA

[March 25, 2019] – The PA Department of Environmental Protection and PA Department of Transportation were two of 12 Keep America Beautiful State Agency Partner Award recipients, presented at the annual Keep America Beautiful National Awards Ceremony, which recently took place during Keep America Beautiful's National Conference in Baltimore, Maryland. The award recognizes state agency partners for their support of Keep America Beautiful state affiliates through partnership projects. This award recognizes the value Keep America Beautiful places on public-private partnerships.

The PA Department of Environmental Protection and the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation were recognized for supporting the 2018 <u>Great American Cleanup of PA</u>, a program of Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful.

The Department of Environmental Protection provided program funding for the purchase of supplies and encouraged individual waste facilities participation.

PennDOT supported the initiative by utilizing its network of 7,500 AAH groups to promote and encourage participation in the Great American Cleanup of PA and distributed bags, gloves, and safety vests to all registered participants through its 67 county maintenance facilities throughout the state.

Both agencies helped promote the Great American Cleanup of PA and encouraged community participation through a shared statewide campaign.

"We are grateful for the support of our state agencies. Both the PA Department of Environmental Protection and PennDOT play a critical role in the provision and distribution of supplies as well as helping promote the initiative. Both agencies are integral to the success of the Great American Cleanup of PA," said Shannon Reiter, President of Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful.

"It's my privilege to recognize such valuable, mission-based work that our state agency partners achieve with their respective Keep America Beautiful state affiliate partners to help communities become more socially connected, environmentally healthy and economically sound," said Keep America Beautiful President and CEO Helen Lowman.

Registration for the 2019 Great American Cleanup of PA is open. To register for the initiative, that runs from March 1 through May 31, visit <a href="mailto:gacofpa.org">gacofpa.org</a>.

## **About Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful**

Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful's mission is empowering Pennsylvanians to keep our communities clean and beautiful. Since 1990, Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful and its volunteers have removed over 141 million pounds of litter from Pennsylvania's roadways, greenways, parks, forests, and waterways. To learn more about Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful, visit <a href="https://www.keeppabeautiful.org">www.keeppabeautiful.org</a>.

**About Keep America Beautiful** 

At Keep America Beautiful, we want to ensure that beauty is our lasting signature. A leading national nonprofit, Keep America Beautiful inspires and educates people to take action every day to improve and beautify their community environment. We envision a country in which every community is a clean, green, and beautiful place to live. Established in 1953, Keep America Beautiful provides the expertise, programs and resources to help people End Littering, Improve Recycling, and Beautify America's Communities. The organization is driven by the work and passion of more than 620 state and community-based Keep America Beautiful affiliates, millions of volunteers, and the support of corporate partners, municipalities, elected officials, and individuals. To donate or take action, visit kab.org. Follow us on Twitter and Instagram, like us on Facebook, or view us on YouTube.

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Photos: Shannon Reiter, President of Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful presents KAB Partnership Award to Patrick McDonnell, PA DEP Secretary and Carl Wesneski, PennDOT Roadway Program Coordinator.