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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Local Architectural Firm WBE-Certified**

ALTOONA, PA --- Judy Coutts, AIA, Architect, has become certified as a Woman Business Enterprise by the Pennsylvania Department of General Services.

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania encourages the participation and utilization of Minority and Women Business Enterprises (MBEs/WBEs) and Disadvantaged Businesses (DB) in state contracting through vehicles such as the Disdvantaged Business Program and Minimum Participation Levels. Certification acts as a tool, enabling MBEs and WBEs to more readily identify and use the state contracting opportunities available to small businesses.

Judy Coutts, AIA, was formed in 1995 to serve clients who need help solving problems related to the built environment, and managing the design and construction process. Ms. Coutts has 31 years of experience on architectural projects of varying sizes, from houses to hospitals, from a nuclear and chemical waste handling facility for the National Institutes of Health to satellite earth stations for NORAD. Hers is the first woman-owned architectural firm in Blair County.

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