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**Park Ridge Businesswoman Honored by
Industry Peers with Highest Achievement**

Mary Margaret Cowhey, Land and Lakes Co., Named "Member of the Year" by Trade Group

WASHINGTON, D.C. – On Tuesday, June 9, Mary Margaret Cowhey, a vice president with Land and Lakes Co. (Park Ridge, Ill.), will receive the National Solid Wastes Management Association's (NSWMA) highest award – Member of the Year – for extraordinary service to NSWMA and the waste industry. NSWMA is the trade association representing private disposal companies throughout North America.

Founded in 1966, Land and Lakes began as an excavating contractor. Through the years, the company has grown and expanded into other areas, specializing in environmental and construction services. From excavation and land development to demolition, hauling, recycling and waste disposal, Land and Lakes offers a wide range of integrated services.

"We are very pleased to recognize Mary Margaret Cowhey for her extraordinary service to the association over many years with the 2008 Member of the Year award," said Bruce J. Parker, President and CEO of NSWMA. "Mary Margaret is a tireless advocate for our industry and for the men and women who work in it. She has been critically involved in major policy and advocacy issues within the Illinois chapter and at the national level."

Cowhey has served the Illinois Chapter of NSWMA as vice chair, legislative committee chair, and Board of Governors' representative. She also serves on the NSWMA Executive Committee and is an alternate on the EIA Board of Trustees. A member of the EIA Women's Council since its inception, she has held a variety of positions including president, treasurer and scholarship committee chair.

Cowhey also was instrumental in developing the industry's effort to educate the public about the importance of the waste management industry in safeguarding the environment and public health.

"The solid waste industry is a committed partner with the public to safeguard the environment. In fact, it is literally our daily jobs to do so," said Cowhey. "It is important that our industry receive the credit it deserves for being at the frontline of environmental protection and stewardship for decades."

Cowhey joined Land and Lakes – a family-owned business – in 1990, managing financial and legal matters. Today, she is a vice president dealing with all aspects of operations.

The awards ceremony will take place in Las Vegas as part of the waste industry's national trade show, WasteExpo 2009 (www.wasteexpo.com).

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For more information about how innovation in the solid waste industry is helping to solve today's environmental challenges, visit www.environmentalistseveryday.org.

