



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3220

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May 20, 2005

The Honorable Frank R. Wolf, Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Science, State, Justice, Commerce and Related Agencies
H-309 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Alan Mollohan
Ranking Minority Member
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Science, State, Justice, Commerce and Related Agencies
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Wolf and Representative Mollohan:

As part of the fiscal year 2006 Science, State, Justice, Commerce and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, we are writing to respectfully request the inclusion of language in the committee report regarding the Economic Development Administration (EDA). The report language states:

The committee directs EDA to continue operations and funding of the planning grant program for existing and designated economic development districts in a manner that is consistent with the current and ongoing practices, policies and existing rules and regulations.

In 2004, EDA project investments helped create over 125,000 new jobs, retain more than 34,000 jobs and leverage \$10.4 billion in private sector investments in the nation's most impoverished and underserved communities. Since its inception, the agency has helped create more than 4 million jobs and leveraged in excess of \$130 billion in private sector investments in more than 8,000 communities.

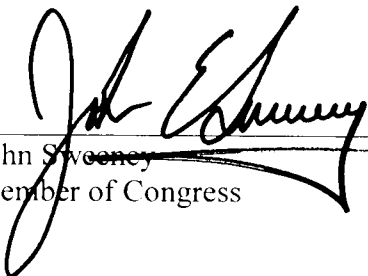
The longstanding success of this small but vital agency is due primarily to the agency's partnerships with regional and local entities, such as the national network of multi-county economic development districts. By matching the federal share of the EDA planning grant program, these regional economic development organizations serve as an organizational lifeline for the vast majority of the nation's poorer and distressed communities.

While these organizations are instrumental partners and leaders in bringing local stakeholders together to craft regional strategic action plans, the most valuable role played by the network of EDA economic development districts is their professional expertise, organizational capacity and local accountability in implementing the specific projects and initiatives required to sustain and support private sector job growth.

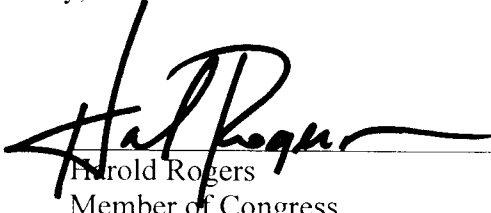
The above language serves to ensure that current operations of the economic development district planning grant program continues in an unabated fashion. During these tough economic times, the ability for small, distressed and underserved communities to access reliable, dependable and cutting edge planning and project implementation resources is of critical importance.

It is for these reasons we urge you to support EDA and respectfully request the inclusion of committee report language accompanying the fiscal year 2006 Science, State, Justice, Commerce and Related Agencies Appropriations bill.

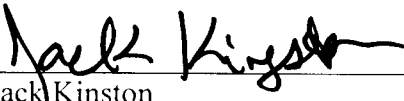
Sincerely,



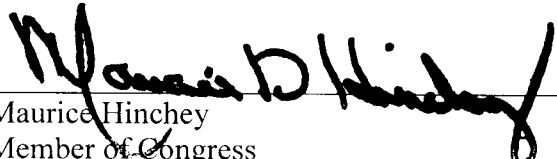
John Sweeney
Member of Congress



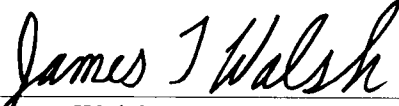
Harold Rogers
Member of Congress



Jack Kingston
Member of Congress



Maurice Hinchey
Member of Congress



James Walsh
Member of Congress



Jo Ann Emerson
Member of Congress