



LEGISLATIVE FACT SHEET

PROVIDE \$66 MILLION FOR THE APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION

ISSUE:

As part of the fiscal year 2006 Energy and Water Development Appropriations bill, Congress is urged to maintain funding for the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) at \$66 million.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) is a federal-state-local partnership tasked with relieving economic distress in a geographic region that has been plagued by chronic poverty and unemployment. Since its creation nearly four decades ago, ARC programs have produced improved standards of living and greater economic opportunity for the 22 million people in the 13-state Appalachian region.

A minimum of \$66 million is needed to help the federal-state commission assist local communities in addressing both chronic and sudden and severe economic circumstances, including hard-hit sectors such as the textile, steel and forestry industries. While ARC and its partners have successfully reduced the region's poverty by nearly 50 percent in the past four decades, there remain significant and evolving roadblocks that the region must overcome before it can become a full partner in the nation's economic mainstream. These pressing issues range from leveraging the region's existing community and natural-resource assets, spurring entrepreneurial networks, deploying advanced broadband systems and upgrading basic infrastructure.

At the local level, a network of 72 multi-county local development districts provides communities and local governments with the capacity, flexibility and expertise to pursue community and economic development initiatives. Depending on local needs, these regional entities help communities package the finances for public infrastructure development, gain access to advanced telecommunications services, secure clean and affordable drinking water or offer gap financing for business creation and expansion projects. They also typically manage geographic information systems for local governments that enhance the strategic planning and investment decision-making processes.

ACTION NEEDED:

Local development districts in the Appalachian region are asked to:

- Urge your Senators to personally contact Senate Energy and Water Development Appropriations Subcommittee Chair Pete Domenici (R-NM) and Ranking Member Harry Reid (D-NV) to fully fund the Appalachian Regional Commission at \$66 million as part of the FY2006 spending bill.
- Urge your Representatives to personally contact House Energy and Water Development Appropriations Subcommittee Chair David Hobson (R-OH) and Ranking Member Peter Visclosky (D-IN) to maintain funding for the Appalachian Regional Commission at \$66 million.

HOUSE AND SENATE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEES ON ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT

US House of Representatives

David Hobson (R-OH), *Chairman*

John T. Doolittle (R-CA)
Jo Ann Emerson (R-MO)
Rodney Frelinghuysen (R-NJ)
Tom Latham (R-IA)
Dennis Rehberg (R-MT)
Michael Simpson (R-ID)
Zach Wamp (R-TN)

Nita Lowey (D-NY), *Ranking Member*

Marion Berry (D-AR)
James E. Clyburn (D-SC)
Chet Edwards (D-TX)
Ed Pastor (D-AZ)

US Senate

Pete V. Domenici (R-NM), *Chairman*

Wayne Allard (R-CO)
Robert F. Bennett (R-UT)
Christopher “Kit” Bond (R-MO)
Conrad Burns (R-MT)
Thad Cochran (R-MS)
Larry E. Craig (R-ID)
Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-TX)
Mitch McConnell (R-KY)

Harry Reid (D-NV), *Ranking Member*

Robert C. Byrd (D-WV)
Byron L. Dorgan (D-ND)
Dianne Feinstein (D-CA)
Daniel Inouye (D-HI)
Tom Johnson (D-SD)
Mary Landrieu (D-LA)
Patty Murray (D-WA)