



DELTA REGIONAL AUTHORITY MAINTAIN FUNDING IN THE FY2013 APPROPRIATIONS PROCESS

ACTION NEEDED: Urge your Senators and Representatives to actively support \$11.7 million for the Delta Regional Authority's (DRA) community and economic development programs as part of a final FY2013 appropriations measure. DRA resources are used for basic infrastructure improvements, job creation initiatives, leadership development, and other essential community and economic development investments in one of the most distressed regions of the nation.

BACKGROUND: The Delta Regional Authority is a regional economic development agency that represents a partnership between federal, state, and local government. Established in 2000, the DRA works to improve life for the 10 million people who reside in the 252 Delta counties and parishes in eight Delta states (Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, and Tennessee). DRA is composed of the Governors of the eight Delta states and a federal co-chair, who is appointed by the President and confirmed by the U.S. Senate. Local participation is provided through multi-county local development districts.

The 252 counties and parishes served by the Delta Regional Authority make up one of the most distressed areas of the country. The disparities between the Delta region and the nation as a whole are stark. As defined by the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA), virtually all the counties and parishes in the region are distressed. The Delta region encompasses 111 of the 386 counties listed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture as suffering from "persistent poverty."

This year, the Administration's FY2013 budget request included \$11.31 million for the Delta Regional Authority, \$360,000 below the FY2012 enacted level. On April 26, the Senate Appropriations Committee approved a FY2013 Energy and Water Appropriations bill (S. 2465) which provided \$11.31 million for DRA. The Senate has not moved the Energy and Water Appropriations bill to the floor for consideration. On June 6, the U.S. House of Representatives passed a FY2013 Energy and Water Appropriations bill (H.R. 5325) which provided \$11.67 million for DRA, level with current funding.

On September 21, Congress approved a six-month Continuing Resolution or "CR" (H. J. Res. 117), which will fund DRA at the current FY2012 level (\$11.67 million) until March 27, 2013. DRA is also subject to the automatic, across-the-board cuts (known as "sequestration") on January 2, 2013, unless Congress passes legislation before that date to avert or postpone the cuts. The White House Office of Management and Budget has projected cuts of at least 8.2 percent to non-exempt domestic discretionary spending, which would include DRA programs.

TALKING POINTS

- Since its creation, the Delta Regional Authority has worked to improve the lives of the 10 million people who live in the Delta. Targeted investments in each of the eight states has helped create more than 9,000 jobs and retain more than 7,500 jobs. **With an overall leverage ratio of 22 to 1, the DRA has leveraged \$1.5 billion in private investment with DRA projects and helped 25,000 families gain access to clean water and sewer service.**
- **In its 10 annual investment cycles, DRA has invested \$98.1 million into 651 projects in the Delta region, leveraging \$611.4 million in other public funds and attracting \$1.5 billion in private-sector funds, for investments totaling almost \$2.2 billion.**
- DRA's strategic investments are helping to create and retain 20,620 jobs, provide clean water and working sewer to 27,100 families, and deliver job training or employment-related education to more than 21,000 people for jobs in their areas, all within a highly distressed part of the nation.

For more information, contact NADO Director of Legislative Affairs Deborah Cox at 202.624.8590 or dcox@nado.org