

February 5, 2013

President Barack Obama
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Obama:

As the Administration prepares its Fiscal Year 2014 budget submission to Congress, we urge you to include funding for the Economic Development Administration (EDA) at the Fiscal Year 2012 appropriated level of \$257.5 million.

The EDA makes investments in economically distressed communities, responding to plant closings, base closures, natural disasters, other economic emergencies, and long-term economic problems. It is the only federal agency focused exclusively on economic development. The EDA awards grants through a transparent, competitive, merit-based process that does not consider political influence. These investments help provide communities with the assets they need to compete in a global economy.

In addition, the EDA awards provide a tremendous return on taxpayer investment. With well over four million private sector jobs created and roughly \$150 billion in private sector investment leveraged since its inception, the EDA has amassed an impressive record of assisting communities struggling to overcome both long-term economic challenges and sudden economic hardships.

As our nation emerges from its long economic downturn, the program will continue to play a critical role in promoting development and job creation. Including \$257.5 million for the EDA in the Administration's FY14 budget will ensure the program is able to provide the critical investments and spur growth in the communities that need it most.

I look forward to working with you to ensure that the EDA has the funding it needs to help our nation's economy rebuild.

Sincerely,

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