
CONTACT: MATTHEW CHASE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR • 202.624.7806 • MCHASE@NADO.ORG
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U.S. Representative Richard Hanna (R-NY) Recognized for National Economic Development Leadership

WASHINGTON, DC — U.S. Representative Richard Hanna (R-NY) was presented with the National Association of Development Organization's (NADO) 2012 National Leadership Award today. Representative Hanna was selected for the award based on his outstanding leadership and support of federal policies and programs that support regional and local economic competitiveness initiatives.

The award was presented by Greg Eisenhut, Executive Director of the Mohawk Valley Economic Development District, Inc., (Mohawk, NY) during the association's Washington Policy Conference in Arlington, Virginia. Erik Miller, Director of the Southern Tier East Regional Planning Development Board (Binghamton, NY), also represented the state's regional councils at the event.

"Representative Hanna is a fierce advocate for economic development and job creation, including making the public investments needed to support vital industries in our state," said Greg. **"He has an unwavering commitment to providing new economic opportunities for our nation's local communities, including in New York's 24th district, and understands that federal programs like EDA play a vital role in providing the seed capital or gap financing that is often necessary to spark new private investments in distressed areas."**

Greg continued, **"As Vice Chairman of the House T&I Subcommittee on Highways and Transit, Representative Hanna ensured that the House transportation reauthorization bill strengthens the role of local elected officials in working with state DOT officials on transportation planning issues. He understands that the transportation planning process is the gateway for accessing federal surface transportation resources and it is essential for all local communities and their local elected officials to have a stronger voice with our state DOT colleagues."**

The NADO National Leadership Award is presented annually to a member of Congress who has made significant contributions in promoting regional economic development and job creation initiatives throughout small town and rural America. Previous winners include U.S. Senators Blanche Lincoln, James Inhofe (R-OK), Olympia Snowe (R-ME) Lindsey Graham (R-SC), and Ben Cardin (D-MD) and U.S. Representatives Jo Ann Emerson (R-MO), Mike McIntyre (D-NC), Alan Mollohan (D-WV), James Oberstar (D-MN) Harold Rogers (R-KY), and Tim Walz (D-MN).

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The National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) provides advocacy, education, networking and research services for the national network of 520 regional development organizations. The association promotes regional strategies, solutions, and collaboration to advance the economic and community competitiveness of America's local communities.