

NADO Action Alert

Urge your Members of Congress to Sign-On to Rep. Michaud's and Rep. Duncan's Letter to U.S. House Appropriations Committee Supporting \$257.5 million for EDA in FY2014

Background/Issue:

NADO is pleased to announce that Rep. Mike Michaud (D-ME) and Rep. John Duncan (R-TN) have agreed to sponsor a letter to House appropriators supporting FY2012 level funding of **\$257.5 million** for EDA in FY2014.

WE NEED YOUR HELP:

Immediately call your members of the House of Representatives today and ask them to sign the Michaud/Duncan letter supporting EDA. The letter closes on April 5, 2013. If your Representatives would like to add their name to the letter, please have their staff contact Nora Todd with Rep. Michaud (nora.todd@mail.house.gov) or Don Walker (don.walker@mail.house.gov) with Rep. Duncan. Please be sure to provide any updates to NADO. If you would like any additional help contacting your Member of Congress, please do not hesitate to contact our Legislative Director, Craig Whitham via email (cwhitham@nado.org) or phone (202.624.8590).

Action Alert Talking Points:

- EDA's budget was cut from \$257.5 million to \$221 million (a \$36.5 million reduction) in the recently adopted Continuing Resolution
- The entire budget cut came by reducing the money available for EDA Public Works grants
- Fewer or smaller grants for public works will have a dramatic impact on economic growth in struggling regions
- It is critical that Congress restore EDA funding to Fiscal Year 2012 levels, including the restoration of Public Works grant funding

General EDA Talking Points

- **EDA is unique among federal programs.** While other federal programs often support broader community development activities, EDA focuses solely on private sector job creation and economic growth.
- **By federal law, EDA projects typically require a 50 percent local cost share and significant private sector investment,** ensuring that local leaders and businesses are committed to the project's success. In addition, EDA investments are focused on high quality jobs, especially in advanced manufacturing, science and technology, and emerging knowledge-based industries and sectors.
- **By federal law, EDA project investments must be tied into a regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) developed and vetted by local officials (including Economic**

Development Districts)—this helps ensure projects have significant local support and are part of a broader regional strategy.

- **EDA creates American jobs.** Two major independent studies conducted over the past decade have concluded that EDA projects have a significant impact on employment levels in communities where EDA investments are made. The most recent analysis released by Grant Thornton and ASR Analytics found that EDA’s public works program generates “between 2.2 and 5.0 jobs per \$10,000 in incremental EDA funding, at a cost per job of between \$2,001 and \$4,611.” These results mirror an in-depth study of EDA’s public works and economic adjustment assistance programs by Rutgers University and a consortium of researchers in 1998. EDA’s job creation and private sector leveraging ratios are highly cost effective and rank at the very top of any public economic development agency.
- **EDA partners with the nationwide network of 380 Economic Development Districts and other state and local officials** to address the fundamental building blocks for economic development, such as regional innovation strategies, vital public infrastructure, business loan funds, and flexible resources for communities to respond to plant closings, base closures, natural disasters, and other sudden and severe economic dislocations. EDA’s infrastructure investments are targeted at essential facilities and assets like water and wastewater systems, middle mile broadband networks, workforce training centers, business incubators, intermodal facilities, and science and research parks. These assets are often lacking in the nation’s most distressed areas, yet they are a prerequisite for private industry to invest in job creation and economic development activities in these areas. As we have witnessed in recent years, private companies will relocate to places with these basic yet vital public infrastructure assets, including outside of the United States.