

# Support EDA Funding

**From: The Honorable Michael H. Michaud**

**Sent By: [nora.todd@mail.house.gov](mailto:nora.todd@mail.house.gov)**

**Date: 3/29/2013**

**Deadline April 5, 2013**

Dear Colleague:

We invite you to join us in sending a bipartisan letter to the Appropriations Committee in support of FY2012 funding levels for the Economic Development Administration (EDA) for FY 2014.

EDA is a cost-effective use of taxpayer dollars to promote economic growth in the most underserved areas of the country. In fact, the EDA is the only federal program that is singularly focused on creating jobs, and, between FY 2009 and 2011, EDA helped local partners create more than 186,000 jobs.

In addition, EDA projects leverage private investment and require local participation to ensure the dollars are being allocated effectively. The projects typically require a minimum of a 50% local cost share and private investment. By federal law, EDA investments must be tied into a regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) developed and vetted by local officials.

EDA's focus on economic growth, private investment, and local input results in a great return on investment. According to a 2008 independent study, every dollar the agency invests leverages another \$6.90 in private and public investment to create the economic environment for business growth and prosperity.

As Congress continues to work to reduce ineffective government spending and help our economy recover, it makes sense to fully fund those programs that are the best investments of taxpayer dollars and are proven job creators. That is why we encourage you to join us in asking the appropriators to fully fund the EDA.

If you would like to sign-on to the letter, please contact Nora Todd with Rep. Michaud ([nora.todd@mail.house.gov](mailto:nora.todd@mail.house.gov)) or Don Walker ([don.walker@mail.house.gov](mailto:don.walker@mail.house.gov)) with Rep. Duncan.

Sincerely,

/s/  
Michael H. Michaud  
Member of Congress

/s/  
John Duncan Jr.  
Member of Congress

April xx, 2013

The Honorable Frank Wolf  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Commerce,

The Honorable Chaka Fattah  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Commerce,

Justice, Science, and Related Agencies  
H-309 The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Justice, Science, and Related Agencies  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Wolf and Ranking Member Fattah:

As you prepare the FY2014 Commerce, Justice, and Science Appropriations Act, we urge you to include FY 2012 funding levels for the Economic Development Administration (EDA).

FY 2012 funding could provide hundreds of additional planning grants, large public works projects and economic adjustment grants to help communities that have seen industries close or relocate overseas. These investments would have an enormous impact across hundreds of small and rural communities.

Since 1965, EDA has worked directly with stakeholders to address the needs of rural communities throughout the country. Together with local funds and private investments, EDA has helped build water treatment systems, broadband networks, workforce training centers, business incubators, intermodal facilities, and science and research parks. These projects create jobs in the short-term and make it easier for businesses to grow over time. They make our companies more competitive and help prevent jobs from moving overseas. Between FY 2009 and 2011, EDA helped local partners create more than 186,000 jobs.

In addition to creating jobs, the EDA awards provide a tremendous return on taxpayer investment. In 2008, an independent report by Grant Thornton confirmed that EDA investments in rural areas “have a statistically significant impact on employment levels.” On average, every dollar the agency invests leverages another \$6.90 in private and public funds. 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 country continues to recover from the effects of the recession, we cannot afford to reduce funding for an agency that helps regions and communities respond to shifts in international markets, address severe unemployment challenges and recover from plant closures, major natural disasters and other severe economic hardships. We sincerely hope that you will fund the EDA at the FY 2012 funding level.

Sincerely,