



APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION SUPPORT FUNDING IN THE FY2017 APPROPRIATIONS PROCESS

ACTION NEEDED: Urge your members of Congress, especially those serving on the House and Senate Appropriations Committees, to support funding for the Appalachian Regional Commission's (ARC) community and economic development programs at no less than the Senate approved level of \$151 million in a final fiscal year (FY) 2017 Energy and Water Development Appropriations measure. ARC 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 Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) is a regional economic development agency that represents a partnership of federal, state, and local government officials. ARC is governed by the governors of the 13 Appalachian states (Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, Mississippi, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia) 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.

LATEST ACTION: Federal programs are currently operating at FY2016 levels under a Continuing Resolution that expires April 28. It is anticipated that Congress will approve an FY2017 omnibus appropriations bill after the incoming administration takes office, providing specific funding levels for agencies through October 1, 2017.

The House failed to advance its FY2017 Energy and Water spending bill on May 26 when a vote on passage failed. The bill includes \$146 million for ARC, of which \$10 million is provided to continue the program of high speed broadband deployment in distressed counties in Central Appalachia.

The Senate approved its FY2017 Energy and Water spending bill on May 12. The bill provides \$151 million for ARC, with \$75 million for ARC's base program, \$50 million for the POWER + Plan, \$20 million for a program of industrial site and workforce development in Southern and South Central Appalachia focused on the automotive and aviation sectors, and \$6 million for a program of basic infrastructure improvement in distressed counties in Central Appalachia.

On February 9, 2016, the President released his FY2017 budget proposal which includes \$120 million for ARC. While this is \$26 million below the FY2016 enacted level, it represents the largest budget request for the agency in more than thirty years. \$50 million of the request is designated for implementing the POWER + Plan, the administration's effort to assist communities negatively impacted by the downturn in the coal economy.

KEY TALKING POINTS

- **ARC complements the broad national activities of other federal agencies by improving federal coordination with state and local officials in the most challenging and distressed parts of Appalachia.** The Commission makes strategic place-based and regional investments that are used to attract and leverage private and non-profit investment to areas suffering from severe economic distress.
- **ARC has played an instrumental role in reducing the number of economically distressed counties by nearly 60 percent during the past four decades.** However, far too many of the region's communities remain susceptible to shifts in global markets, advancements in technology, and changes in federal policies, especially in major employment industries like manufacturing, mining, tobacco, and steel. During the 2002 to 2008 economic expansion, Appalachian employment grew slower than the national rate, averaging 0.8 percent per year, compared to 1.2 percent per year for the nation. The region has been hit hard by the current economic recession and slow recovery.

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS
LEGISLATIVE FACT SHEET: APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION**

- **In FY2015, ARC invested \$101.9 million in funding for 466 non-highway projects. ARC's FY2015 grant funds attracted an additional \$204.9 million in other project funding, a ratio of 2 to 1, and \$765.8 million in non-project leveraged private investment, a ratio of nearly 8 to 1.** These strategic investments will create or retain an estimated 23,032 jobs and train an estimated 23,123 students and workers in new job skills.

For more information, please contact Susan Howard, Legislative Director, at 202.624.8590 / showard@nado.org.

For a list of members of the Senate and House Appropriations Committees for the 115th Congress, see below.

U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee

Majority:

Thad Cochran (R-MS)*, Full Chair
Mitch McConnell (R-KY)*
Richard Shelby (R-AL)*
Lamar Alexander (R-TN), Subcommittee Chair
Susan Collins (R-ME)*
Lisa Murkowski (R-AK)*
Lindsey Graham (R-SC)*
Roy Blunt (R-MO)
Jerry Moran (R-KS)
John Hoeven (R-ND)*
John Boozman (R-AR)
Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV)
James Lankford (R-OK)
Steve Daines (R-MT)
Marco Rubio (R-FL)
John Kennedy (R-LA)*

Minority:

Patrick Leahy (D-VT), Vice Chairman
Patty Murray (D-WA)*
Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), Ranking Member
Richard Durbin (D-IL)*
Jack Reed (D-RI)
Jon Tester (D-MT)*
Tom Udall (D-NM)*
Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH)*
Jeff Merkley (D-OR)*
Chris Coons (D-DE)*
Brian Schatz (D-HI)
Tammy Baldwin (D-WI)
Chris Murphy (D-CT)
Joe Manchin (D-WV)
Chris Van Hollen (D-MD)

**Indicates Senator serves on the
U.S. Senate Energy and Water Appropriations
Subcommittee*

U.S. House Appropriations Committee

Majority:

Rodney P. Frelinghuysen (R-NJ), Chair
Harold Rogers (R-KY)
Robert B. Aderholt (R-AL)
Kay Granger (R-TX)*
Michael K. Simpson (R-ID) +
John Abney Culberson (R-TX)
John R. Carter (R-TX)
Ken Calvert (R-CA)*
Tom Cole (R-OK)
Mario Diaz-Balart (R-FL)
Charles W. Dent (R-PA)
Tom Graves (R-GA)
Kevin Yoder (R-KS)
Steve Womack (R-AR)
Jeff Fortenberry (R-NE)*
Tom Rooney (R-FL)
Chuck Fleischmann (R-TN)*
Jaime Herrera Beutler (R-WA)*
David Joyce (R-OH)*
David Valadao (R-CA)
Andy Harris (R-MD)
Martha Roby (R-AL)
Mark Amodei (R-NV)
Chris Stewart (R-UT)
David Young (R-IA)
Evan Jenkins (R-WV)
Steven Palazzo (R-MS)
Dan Newhouse (R-WA)*
John Moolenaar (R-MI)
Scott Taylor (R-VA)

Minority:

Nita M. Lowey (D-NY), Full Ranking
Marcy Kaptur (D-OH) #
Peter J. Visclosky (D-IN)*
José E. Serrano (D-NY)*
Rosa L. DeLauro (D-CT)
David E. Price (D-NC)
Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-CA)
Sanford D. Bishop Jr. (D-GA)
Barbara Lee (D-CA)
Betty McCollum (D-MN)
Tim Ryan (D-OH)
C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger (D-MD)
Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-FL)*
Henry Cuellar (D-TX)
Chellie Pingree (D-ME)
Mike Quigley (D-IL)
Derek Kilmer (D-WA)
Matt Cartwright (D-PA)
Grace Meng (D-NY)
Mark Pocan (D-WI)
Katherine Clark (D-MA)
Pete Aguilar (D-CA)*

+Indicates Chair of the U.S. House Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee

#Indicates Ranking Member of the U.S. House Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee

**Indicates Representative serves on the U.S. House Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee*