



APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION SUPPORT FUNDING IN THE FY2018 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 for fiscal year (FY) 2018 at no less than the FY2017 congressionally approved level of \$152 million. 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.

On March 16, President Trump released an outline of the administration's FY2018 budget proposal titled "America First: A Budget Blueprint to Make America Great Again." The proposal requests elimination of ARC and other independent agencies including regional commissions. The administration calls for a reduction of \$54 billion from non-discretionary domestic funding while increasing defense spending by the same amount.

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 overseen 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: Congress has passed an omnibus spending plan to fund the federal government through September 30, 2017. The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2017 was passed by the U.S. House on May 3; the U.S. Senate approved the spending bill on May 4, and President Trump signed the bill into law.

The bill allocates \$152 million for ARC, \$6 million above the FY2016 enacted level. Several new and continuing programs were funded, including:

- \$10 million for high-speed broadband deployment in distressed counties in the Central Appalachian region most negatively impacted by the downturn in the coal economy, level funding from last year
- \$16 million for a program of industrial site and workforce development in Southern and South Central Appalachia focused primarily on the automotive supply sector and the aviation sector (up to \$13.5 million is specified for activities in Southern Appalachia), level funding from last year
- \$6 million for a program of basic infrastructure improvements in distressed counties in Central Appalachia (new funding)
- \$50 million for the POWER initiative, a multi-agency effort designed to assist communities and workers impacted by changes in the coal power industry, level funding from last year

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. In FY2016, 93 counties were considered economically distressed. ARC responded by investing into 394 projects of which 76% was directed towards these counties.
- **ARC has played an instrumental role in reducing the number of economically distressed counties by nearly 70 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. From 2000 to 2014, 622,000 manufacturing jobs were lost in Appalachia. During 2011 to 2016, the region also experienced a loss of 33,500 coal mining jobs representing 82% of entire jobs lost in the sector.
- **From October 2015 to January 2017, ARC partnered with the region's 73 development districts to invest \$175.7 million into 662 projects. Projects received an additional \$257.4 million in match funding while leveraging \$443.3 million in private investment.** The strategic investments will create or retain an estimated 23,670 jobs and train an estimated 49,000 students and workers.

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)*, Chairman
Mitch McConnell (R-KY)*
Richard Shelby (R-AL)*
Lamar Alexander (R-TN), Subcommittee Chairman
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), Ranking Member
Patty Murray (D-WA)*
Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), Subcommittee 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), Ranking Member
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*