



DELTA REGIONAL AUTHORITY

SUPPORT FUNDING IN THE FY2019 APPROPRIATIONS PROCESS

ACTION NEEDED: Urge your members of Congress, especially those serving on the House and Senate Appropriations Committees, to support funding for the Delta Regional Authority’s (DRA) community and economic development programs for fiscal year (FY) 2019 at no less than the FY2018-approved level of \$25 million. DRA 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: DRA is a regional economic development agency that represents a partnership between federal, state, and local government. Established in 2000, the agency works to improve life for the 10 million people who reside in the 252 Delta counties and parishes in eight states (Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, and Tennessee). DRA is governed by the governors of the eight Delta states 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.

The 252 counties and parishes served by the DRA make up one of the most distressed areas of the country. The disparities between the Delta region and the nation are stark. As defined by the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA), many of the counties and parishes in the region are distressed. The Delta region encompasses 111 of the 386 counties listed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) as suffering from “persistent poverty.”

LATEST ACTION: Both the House and Senate have approved their respective FY2019 appropriations bills for Energy-Water programs including federal-state regional commissions. DRA has been approved at \$15 million by the House; the Senate has approved \$25 million for the agency. The new fiscal year begins on October 1.

On March 23, the president signed a \$1.2 trillion omnibus spending bill for FY2018 which funds federal operations through September 30, 2018. Before the bill’s approval, the federal government had been operating under a series of continuing resolutions since the beginning of the current fiscal year.

On February 12, the Trump administration released its FY2019 budget proposal, “Efficient, Effective, Accountable: An American Budget.” The budget requests \$465 billion for non-defense discretionary spending and \$627 for defense discretionary spending. The proposal includes elimination of DRA and requests \$2.5 million for costs associated with orderly closure of the agency.

The following table details final funding from FY2017 and FY2018 as well as the president’s FY2019 budget request and House and Senate Appropriations Committee-approved FY2019 figures:

<i>Budget figures are in millions</i>	FY2017 Final	FY2018 Final	FY2019 Request	FY2019 House	FY2019 Senate
Delta Regional Authority	\$25	\$25	\$2.5	\$15	\$25

KEY TALKING POINTS

- Since its creation, the Delta Regional Authority has worked to improve the lives of the 10 million people who live in the Delta. Targeted investments in each of the eight states have helped to **create and retain 55,140 jobs**.
- From FY2002 through FY2017, DRA has invested over \$185 million into 1,149 projects in the Delta region leveraging more than \$1 billion in other public funds and attracting nearly \$2.5 billion in private-sector funds. Overall, DRA investments have helped to generate **\$3 billion in public and private investments, an overall leverage ratio of 18.9 to 1**.

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

U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee

Majority:

Richard Shelby (R-MS)*, Chairman
Mitch McConnell (R-KY)*
Lamar Alexander (R-TN) +
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)
John Kennedy (R-LA)*
Marco Rubio (R-FL)
Cindy Hyde-Smith (R-MS)

Minority:

Patrick Leahy (D-VT), Ranking Member
Patty Murray (D-WA)*
Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) #
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 Chair of the U.S. Senate Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee*

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

* *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)*

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