DRAFT LETTER TO BE SENT TO YOUR MEMBER OF CONGRESS IN MARCH 2022 ON LETTERHEAD;

SEND A SCANNED COPY TO CONGRESSIONAL STAFF YOU MEET WITH

March X, 2022

The Honorable XXXX

U.S. Congress

Washington DC 20515 (House) /20510 (Senate)

**RE: FY23 Energy & Water Appropriations – ARC Local Development District Funding**

Dear Representative [name],

In FY22, Congress wisely began to make overdue adjustments to increase Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) Local Development District (LDDs) funding through the FY22 Energy & Water Appropriations Bill. Throughout ARC’s 13-state service area, LDDs facilitate workforce development and job creation, conduct strategic community planning work, offer technical assistance to communities applying and administering public and private sector funding, and so much more.

In my own community in [city/region], my [organization] serves just such a role, and has successfully partnered with the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) and coordinated federally-funded initiatives that have been implemented at the local level. For example, the [project name] project which [delivered outcome] would not have been possible without ARC partnership and ARC LDD Admin Support.

Over the past five years, while overall ARC funding has increased substantially through annual appropriations and through the landmark Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) bipartisan infrastructure bill, ARC local technical assistance dollars for LDD Admin have been largely flat. As a result, **Congressional Action is needed to support for no less than $18 million in directed funding for ARC Local Development Districts in FY23.** This would constitute a $10 million increase over the FY22 funding level and would help keep pace with the exponentially increasing available ARC federal grant growth over the past decade. This investment would enable LDDs to add additional staff capacity to plan, coordinate, and administer the growing volume of ARC project applications and ensure that subsequent federal investments are thoughtfully designed and carefully stewarded.

Sincerely,

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR