DRAFT LETTER TO BE SENT TO YOUR MEMBER OF CONGRESS IN MARCH 2023 ON LETTERHEAD;

EMAIL A COPY TO CONGRESSIONAL STAFF YOU MEET WITH

March X, 2023

The Honorable XXXX

U.S. Congress

Washington DC 20515 (House) /20510 (Senate)

**RE: FY24 Energy & Water Appropriations – ARC Local Development District Funding**

Dear Representative [name],

In FY22 and FY23, Congressional appropriators began to make overdue adjustments to increase Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) Local Development District (LDD) funding within the 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 for and administering ARC grants and other sources of 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 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), ARC local technical assistance dollars for LDD administrative expenses have been held nearly flat. The increase from $6.2 million to $8 million in recent years’ appropriations bills is appreciated, but continued annual increases are needed to make up for many years of flat funding. **Congressional Action is needed to support for no less than $18 million in directed funding for ARC Local Development Districts in FY24.** This would constitute a $10 million increase over the FY23 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

Organization name