



**NARC**

*Building Regional Communities*

**National Association of Regional Councils**

777 North Capitol Street, NE Suite 305

Washington, DC 20002

202.986.1032 (tel) 202.986.1038 (fax)

[www.NARC.org](http://www.NARC.org)

## FY11 CONTINUING RESOLUTION TALKING POINTS

### **EPA Air Pollution Grant Programs**

*Please use to guide phone conversations or in-person meetings with Congressional Members and/or staff.*

**IMMEDIATE ACTION:** *Please support the inclusion of funding for **Diesel Emission Reduction grants, Targeted Airshed grants, and Air Pollution Prevention, Control and Abatement grants** within the FY 2011 Continuing Resolution (H.R. 1) under development by Congress to ensure vital local and regional programs continue to boost the economy and create jobs. Currently H.R. 1 reduces funding for Diesel Emissions grants by \$10M, targeted airshed grants are zeroed out, and air pollution prevent programs are reduced by \$60M.*

### **GENERAL STATEMENTS:**

- Reforms to and consolidation of federal funding and programs should be looked to in order to save money and increase government efficiency, while decreasing the national debt.
- Domestic, discretionary programs, which are only 12 percent of the federal annual budget, are critical to the ability of local governments and regions to carry out their responsibilities as service providers for both the federal and state governments.
- Due to economic challenges, local governments have experienced reduced revenue streams due to decreased taxes (primarily property and sales) and major reductions in state financial assistance, while at the same time facing an increased demand for services. As a result, local governments of all sizes and in all parts of the nation have been forced to institute significant layoffs, furloughs and service reductions, which could continue for several years to come.
- Federal assistance to state and local governments and regions will help mitigate further layoffs. Current unemployment rates are already at 9.4 percent nationally.
- Federal investment in state, local and regional infrastructure produces jobs and promotes local economic development.
- Deficit reduction should not be accomplished by shifting costs to states and local governments, imposing unfunded mandates, or pre-empting local government programs or taxing authority.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** Please consider the following when making **EPA various air pollution reduction grant** funding determinations in H.R. 1:

- This funding is critical to protecting public health and the environment while stimulating jobs and economic growth in America's cities and towns.
- The Diesel Emissions Reduction Program (DERA) provides grant and loan authority for promoting diesel emission reductions by deploying proven and emerging technologies to meet critical local air quality needs while leveraging private investment.
- Targeted Air Shed Grant Program assists local, state and/or tribal air control agencies in developing plans, conducting demonstrations, and implementing projects in order to reduce air pollution in highest polluted nonattainment areas, which can assist counties in reaching attainment status.
- Air pollution prevention, control and abatement grants are given to States, federally recognized tribes, interstate agencies, tribal consortia, and air pollution control agencies for multimedia or single media pollution activities that improve environmental performance, achieve administrative savings and strengthen partnerships.
- Grant programs like these assist States, local governments and regions to balance a commitment to conserving energy, protecting the environment, developing new technologies, and strengthening the economy.



**NARC**

*Building Regional Communities*

**National Association of Regional Councils**

777 North Capitol Street, NE Suite 305

Washington, DC 20002

202.986.1032 (tel) 202.986.1038 (fax)

[www.NARC.org](http://www.NARC.org)

**LOCAL/REGIONAL CONSTITUENT EXAMPLE:** In our region alone, maintaining adequate funding for **air pollution grant programs** is needed for: [INSERT PROJECT DETAILS]

***Project Name***

***Project Type and Description***

***Cost Estimate***

***Number of Jobs Created***

***Cost Efficiencies***

***Project Effectiveness/Improvements for community or region***

***Start/Finish Time (i.e. immediately, 3 months, 6 months)***

- **PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE:** Investment in the **air pollution grant programs** must continually be promoted at all levels of government to ensure environmental protection, economic growth and the ability to address future challenges and opportunities.
- Thank you for your consideration of our recommendations and your commitment to sustained and strategic public investments. We offer our support and assistance to you and your colleagues on these important and timely efforts to stimulate jobs, reinvigorate local and national economies and possibly forestall deep problems within state and local governments.