



NARC

Building Regional Communities

National Association of Regional Councils

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FY11 CONTINUING RESOLUTION TALKING POINTS

Economic Development Administration (EDA)

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 **the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration (EDA)** 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 maintains level funding for EDA at \$225M.*

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 **Economic Development Administration** funding determinations in the FY11 Continuing Resolution (H.R. 1):

- EDA provides vital resources for distressed communities to improve local economies through bottom-up economic development strategies, allowing local governments and regions to promote economic recovery.
- EDA should be fully funded to fulfill its mission to lead the federal economic development agenda, which is especially critical during these economic times.
- EDA, the *only federal agency focused solely on private sector job growth*, provides the much needed public investment in infrastructure development and job creation, which boosts local, regional and national economies.
- EDA is a *good investment of federal funds*, leveraging over \$25 in private sector investments for every taxpayer dollar invested.
- Funding for its Planning, Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance programs *allows Economic Development Districts (EDDs) to plan and implement local and regional economic development projects across the country*, which stimulate and strengthen local economies.
- EDA supports job creation and retention across the country; in 2009 EDA's Public Works, Revolving Loan Fund, and construction components of its Economic Adjustment Assistance programs helped create or retain 93,000 jobs.



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RECOMMENDATIONS *continued:*

- EDA supports long-term economic recovery for regions impacted by natural disasters, assisting in creating an estimated 36,000 jobs with its FY2009 disaster recovery investments.

LOCAL/REGIONAL CONSTITUENT EXAMPLE: In our region alone, continued investment in the **Economic Development Administration** 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 **Economic Development Administration** must continually be promoted at all levels of government to ensure competitiveness, job creation, 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.