



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

FY11 CONTINUING RESOLUTION TALKING POINTS

Regional Commissions

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 **Federal-State Regional Commissions** 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 the regional commissions – Appalachian by \$7.6M, Delta by \$1.3M, Denali by \$1.165M, Northern Border zeroed out, and Southeast Crescent zeroed out.*

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 funding determinations for the **Regional Commissions** in the FY11 Continuing Resolution (H.R. 1):

- Funding Federal-State Regional Commissions – including the Appalachian Regional Commission, the Delta Regional Authority, the Denali Commission, the Northern Border Regional Commission, and the Southeast Crescent Regional Commission – provides local governments and multi-county regions essential economic and community development opportunities for their distressed populations.
- Regional Commissions play a strategic role in regional economic development not filled by any other federal agency, by offering the unique federal resources needed for improved infrastructure and increased economic opportunity via a federal-state-local government partnership within these consistently distressed regions.
- The projects funded by regional commissions annually create new jobs, improve local water and sewer systems, increase school readiness, expand access to health care, assist local communities with strategic planning and provide technical assistance for emerging businesses.
- Regional Commissions offer results needed to support regional economies within their jurisdiction. For example, in FY2009 ARC created or retained 21,183 jobs within its 13-state region, exceeding its goal of 20,000 jobs created or retained annually for the fourth year in a row.



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LOCAL/REGIONAL CONSTITUENT EXAMPLE: In our region alone, continued investment in and support of the **INSERT NAME OF REGIONAL COMMISSION** 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 **Regional Commissions** 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.