

Statement of Support
“Regional Economic and Infrastructure Development Act”
(H.R. 3246)

The National Association of Regional Councils (NARC) strongly supports the “Regional Economic and Infrastructure Development Act” (H.R. 3246), which intends to provide a comprehensive regional approach to economic and infrastructure development in the most severely economically distressed regions in the nation. NARC supports regional cooperation and solutions to best manage the necessary economic development and community growth of regions throughout the United States.

This bill intends to authorize the five regional commissions – Delta; Northern Great Plains; Southeast Crescent; Southwest Border; and, Northern Border – the latter three representing newly formed initiatives. This effort is particularly important because it addresses the need for regional assessment, coordinated strategies and investment in areas throughout the nation that require development, maintenance and improvement of critical transportation and public infrastructure, as well as increased public services and jobs creation.

NARC supports collaboration between the regional commissions and the local economic development districts (EDDs), which will ensure that comprehensive and prioritized economic development plans and projects are given grant opportunities to strengthen the locality and region, as well as with federal and state partners. NARC endorses the project criteria and the reporting requirements set forth in the legislation, and urges flexibility for all commissions to respond to the unique needs of their particular regions.

NARC applauds Chairman Oberstar for his leadership in advocating on behalf of regional economic development and infrastructure improvement. As a national, broad representative of all of these regions EDDs and an advocate for increased regional economic development, NARC offers its assistance to the Chairman and the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee staff.

About NARC

The National Association of Regional Councils (NARC) has over forty years of experience serving as the national voice for regionalism by advocating for regional cooperation as the most effective way to address a variety of community planning and development opportunities and issues - large and small, urban and rural – through advocacy, education, trainings, workshops and conferences.