



National Association of Regional Councils

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June 19, 2007

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
Chairwoman
Senate Appropriations Commerce, Justice,
Science and Related Agencies Subcommittee
144 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Robert Bennett
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Commerce, Justice,
Science and Related Agencies Subcommittee
123 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairwoman Mikulski and Ranking Member Bennett,
The National Association of Regional Councils (NARC), which represents regional councils, councils of governments, and metropolitan planning organizations who, in turn, represent local elected officials nationwide, urges your Subcommittee to pass the Commerce, Justice, and Science appropriations bill and fully fund the Economic Development Administration (EDA) at the FY2008 authorized level of \$500 million. Your counterpart subcommittee in the House has creating a solid jumping off point by allocating \$100 million more for EDA, however, more is needed to support the essential economic and community development functions of EDA.

NARC strongly urges sustained and increased funding for EDA in order for communities to receive much needed planning, technical assistance and public works grants, which contribute to important projects that bolster economic and community development. Additionally, the increased funding supports maintaining adequate staff resources at EDA, particularly within its national network of economic development districts and regional and field offices, which play a central role in helping communities rebound from economic challenges, replace lost jobs and prepare for the future by developing critical economic and community facilities.

EDA is a critical agency for our members due to its ability to create and maintain jobs, as well as stimulate industrial and commercial growth in economically distressed areas, urban and rural alike. EDA programs have provided an invaluable resource to the nation's communities as they have moved to implement regional strategies that promote innovation and worldwide competitiveness. Continuance of these programs is vital to sustain the nation's posture in the world economy.

In addition to our support, NARC offers its assistance for any economic or community development issue that might arise. We thank you for your efforts and look forward to working with you throughout the 110th Congress. Feel free to contact me at any time at 202.986.1032, x.213 or cmoore@narc.org. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cameron Moore", written in a cursive style.

Cameron Moore
Executive Director