

October 25, 2023

The Honorable Kay Granger
Chair
House Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hal Rogers
Chair
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science,
and Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Matt Cartwright
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science,
and Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Granger, Ranking Member DeLauro, Chair Rogers, and Ranking Member Cartwright,

On behalf of communities across the country, the undersigned members of the EDA Stakeholders Coalition encourage the Committee to allocate robust funding levels for the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration (EDA) in the FY24 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act.

Since 1965, EDA has helped local and regional stakeholders across the country address pressing economic development needs, with an emphasis on supporting job creation, providing disaster relief, and mitigating economic distress in rural and underserved areas. Many communities have benefitted from EDA investments into job skills training, technical assistance, development of high-growth industries, and infrastructure improvements designed to help attract and support businesses.

Given the importance of EDA's work in our communities, the undersigned members of the EDA Coalition write to express our concern regarding the proposed cut to EDA funding in the House's proposed FY24 CJS appropriations bill, reducing funding for EDA to a mere \$254.5 million in FY24. This would cut EDA's budget nearly in half, in comparison to the FY23 level of \$498 million.

As the House Appropriations Committee and the House CJS Subcommittee continue to work toward a funding measure for FY24, we hope that all members of the Committee will join forces in supporting funding for EDA in FY24 that is level with, or above, the FY23 final appropriation of \$498 million.

Sincerely,

The undersigned members of the EDA Stakeholders Coalition:

National Association of Development Organizations
Rural Community Assistance Partnership
International Economic Development Council
National Association of Counties
National League of Cities

National Association of Regional Councils
Council of State Community Development Agencies
Main Street America
Local Initiatives Support Corporation
SSTI
University Economic Development Association
Development District Association of Appalachia