



National Association of Regional Councils

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June 19, 2007

The Honorable David Obey
Chairman
House Appropriations Committee
218-H Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jerry Lewis
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
1016 Longworth House Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Obey and Ranking Member Lewis,
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, applauds the Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Subcommittee's efforts on passing the Commerce, Justice, and Science appropriations bill, which allots \$100 million more in funding for the Economic Development Administration (EDA). This is a promising start, but NARC advocates fully funding EDA at the FY2008 authorized level of \$500 million during the full Committee mark up.

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 that reads "Cameron Moore". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Cameron" being more prominent than the last name "Moore".

Cameron Moore
Executive Director