

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

April 5, 2017

The Honorable Mike Simpson  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Energy and Water  
Development and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Marcy Kaptur  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Energy and Water  
Development and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Simpson and Ranking Member Kaptur,

We are writing to express support for continued robust funding in Fiscal Year 2018 (FY 18) for the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC). Last year, the Subcommittee allocated \$146 million for ARC in the FY 17 Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act. We thank you for your past support of the ARC, and hope you will continue to support the ARC in FY 18.

The ARC is not a typical federal agency; created in 1965, it is a true commission. The ARC is comprised of thirteen state governors and one federal co-chair working as a partnership between the states, the 420 counties of the Appalachian region and the federal government. The ARC supports vital initiatives in the Appalachian region such as base area development activities, which promote economic development efforts across Appalachia, helping the region achieve socioeconomic parity with the rest of the nation. The ARC also supports the Partnerships for Opportunity and Workforce and Economic Revitalization (POWER) Initiative, which targets federal resources to help revitalize communities and regions affected by job losses in coal mining, coal-powered plant operations and coal-related supply-chain industries.

Between 2015 and 2017, in partnership with the states and seventy three Local Development Districts (LDDs), ARC supported 662 projects in Appalachia totaling \$175.7 million. These investments have been matched by more than \$257.4 million from other government, non-profit and private sources, and have leveraged an additional \$443.3 million in private investments across Appalachia. These projects are projected to create or retain more than 23,670 jobs; train and educate over 49,000 students and workers; and benefit the more than 25 million residents in the region's 420 counties – nearly one-quarter of which are considered economically distressed. ARC investments have generated state and private investments in many multiples that have created jobs and economic opportunity in some of the poorest areas of the United States.

We understand the budgetary constraints the subcommittee is facing. We believe this is an important partnership with the states that should be maintained and supported with robust funding. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

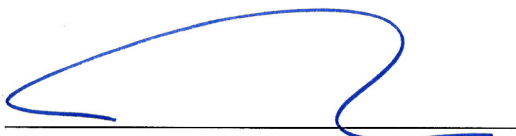
Sincerely,



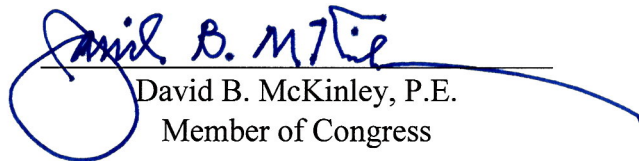
Phil Roe, M.D.  
Member of Congress



H. Morgan Griffith  
Member of Congress



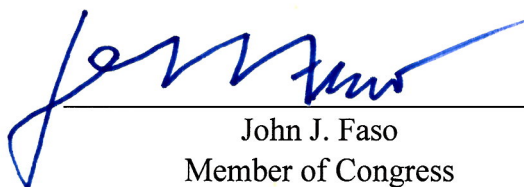
John K. Delaney  
Member of Congress



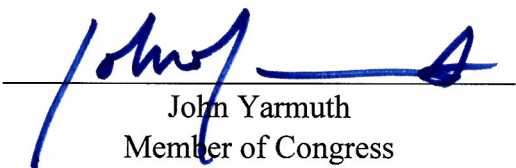
David B. McKinley, P.E.  
Member of Congress



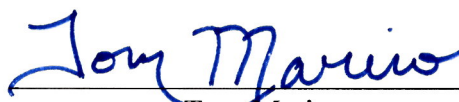
Mike Doyle  
Member of Congress



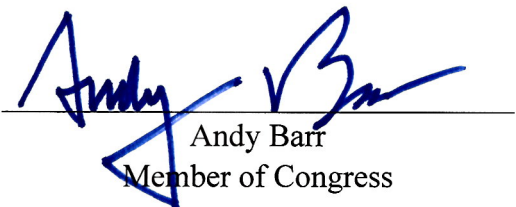
John J. Faso  
Member of Congress



John Yarmuth  
Member of Congress



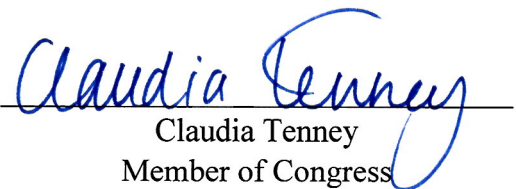
Tom Marino  
Member of Congress



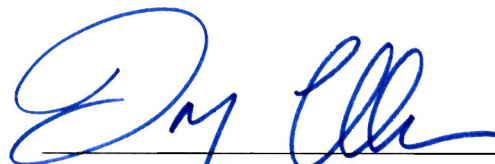
Andy Barr  
Member of Congress



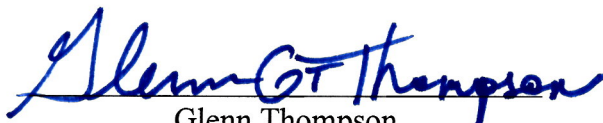
Bill Johnson  
Member of Congress



Claudia Tenney  
Member of Congress



Doug Collins  
Member of Congress



Glenn Thompson  
Member of Congress



Trent Kelly  
Member of Congress