March 16, 2018

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

Dear Chairman Simpson and Ranking Member Kaptur:

We are writing to express support for continued robust funding in Fiscal Year 2019 (FY 19) for the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC). Last year, the Subcommittee allocated $130 million for ARC in the FY 18 Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act, and we are pleased that the Trump Administration’s FY 19 budget requests $152 million for ARC. We thank you for your past support of the ARC, and hope you will continue to support the ARC in FY 19.

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.

In partnership with the states and seventy-three Local Development Districts (LDDs), ARC supported 591 projects in Appalachia totaling $152.3 million in FY 17. These investments have been matched by more than $206.1 million from other government, non-profit and private sources, and have leveraged an additional $735.3 million in private investments across Appalachia. These projects are projected to create or retain more than 21,300 jobs; train and educate over 29,000 students and workers; and benefit the more than 25 million residents in the region’s 420 counties – one-fifth 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 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

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

Glenn 'GT' Thompson
Member of Congress

John K. Delaney
Member of Congress

Mike Doyle
Member of Congress

John Yarmuth
Member of Congress

Bill Johnson
Member of Congress

Steve Stivers
Member of Congress

Tom Marino
Member of Congress

John J. Faso
Member of Congress

Trent Kelly
Member of Congress

H. Morgan Griffith
Member of Congress