

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3205

May 4, 2022

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
U.S. Senate
Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Energy and Water
Development
SH-331
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable John Kennedy
U.S. Senate
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Energy and Water
Development
SR-416
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairwoman Feinstein and Ranking Member Kennedy:

As you begin the process of drafting the Fiscal Year 2023 Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, we respectfully request that the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) receive no less than \$235 million in Fiscal Year 2023, the amount included in the Fiscal Year 2023 President's Budget request.

Established in 1965, ARC is a federal-state partnership that invests in projects designed to support economic development in 420 counties across the 13 Appalachian states, encompassing more than 25 million Americans. In Fiscal Year 2021, ARC collaborated with states and local development districts within Appalachia to support 465 projects totaling over \$163 million in federal investment. This federal investment helped attract over \$1 billion in local, state, and private funding that resulted in the creation or retention of over 20,000 jobs in Appalachia. This funding also supported the education and training of nearly 25,000 students and workers in the region.

As part of this request, we ask that you include no less than \$118 million for the Area Development Base Program; \$32 million for special regional initiatives to address distress; and \$13 million to address workforce challenges caused by the Appalachian Region's drug crisis. Additionally, \$72 million is requested to support the Partnerships for Opportunity and Workforce and Economic Revitalization (POWER) initiative to help diversify the economies of Appalachian communities. Continued funding for these essential programs will help ARC continue its mission to close the economic gap between Appalachia and the rest of the nation. Since its creation, ARC has played a significant role in improving the lives of those living in Appalachia. Unfortunately, the region continues to experience unique challenges that affect the

quality of life for its residents. Many communities within Appalachia still experience severe economic distress, lack access to affordable high-speed Internet service, and are susceptible to poorer health outcomes than communities located outside the region. Robust funding for the Commission is needed to continue the progress made in Appalachia and ensure a prosperous future for the region.

On behalf of our constituents who call Appalachia their home, we urge you to support strong funding for ARC in Fiscal Year 2023 at the President’s Budget request of \$235 million.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,



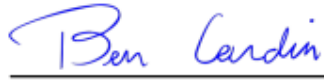
Mark R. Warner
United States Senator



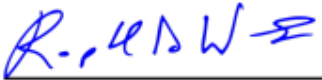
Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



Tim Kaine
United States Senator



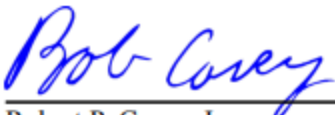
Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator



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United States Senator



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United States Senator



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United States Senator