

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 15, 2012

The Honorable Frank Wolf
Chairman
Subcommittee on Commerce,
Justice, Science, and Related Agencies
H-309 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chaka Fattah
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Commerce,
Justice, Science, and Related Agencies
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Wolf and Ranking Member Fattah:

As you prepare the FY2013 Commerce, Justice, and Science Appropriations Act, we urge you include level funding for the Economic Development Administration (EDA).

One of the most important things Congress can do to create jobs is provide communities and businesses with the tools that they need to grow. A company cannot compete effectively in an area that lacks basic infrastructure. A business getting ready to expand operations will not consider an area without high-speed broadband or a skilled workforce.

Since 1965, EDA has worked directly with stakeholders to address the needs of communities throughout the country. Together with local funds and private investments, EDA has helped build water treatment systems, broadband networks, workforce training centers, business incubators, intermodal facilities, and science and research parks. These projects create jobs in the short-term and make it easier for businesses to grow over time. They make our companies more competitive and help prevent jobs from moving overseas.

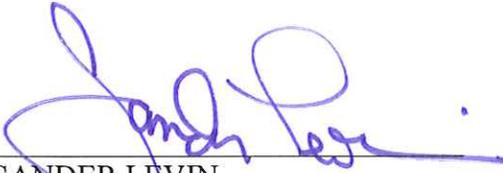
These investments not only work, they provide a tremendous return on taxpayer investment. In 2008, an independent report by Grant Thornton confirmed that EDA investments in rural areas "have a statistically significant impact on employment levels." On average, every dollar the agency invests leverages another \$6.90 in private and public funds. Since 2009, EDA has helped local partners create more than 161,500 jobs.

As our country continues to recover from the effects of the recession, we cannot afford to eliminate funding for an agency that helps regions and communities respond to shifts in international markets, address severe unemployment challenges and recover from plant closures, major natural disasters and other severe economic hardships. We sincerely hope that you will support level funding for EDA.

Sincerely,


MICHAEL H. MICHAUD
Member of Congress


JOHN J. DUNCAN
Member of Congress



SANDER LEVIN
Member of Congress



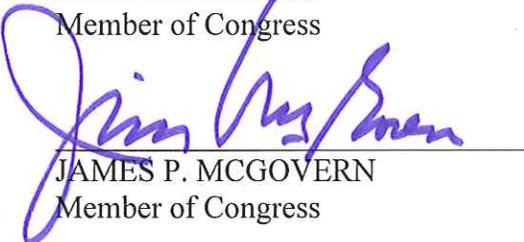
JOHN D. DINGELL
Member of Congress



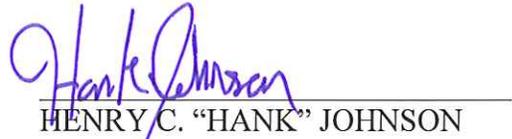
RICHARD HANNA
Member of Congress



ALCEE L. HASTINGS
Member of Congress



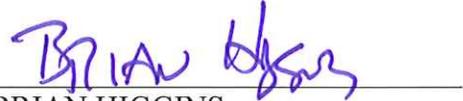
JAMES P. MCGOVERN
Member of Congress



HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON
Member of Congress



ROSA L. DELAURO
Member of Congress



BRIAN HIGGINS
Member of Congress



JESSE L. JACKSON, JR.
Member of Congress



TIM HOLDEN
Member of Congress



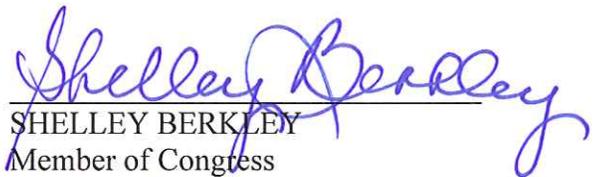
MIKE ROSS
Member of Congress



CHARLES F. BASS
Member of Congress



BOB FILNER
Member of Congress



SHELLEY BERKLEY
Member of Congress



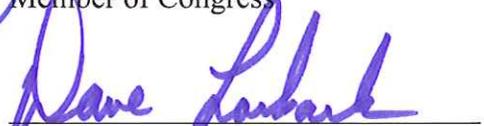
JUDY CHU
Member of Congress



JOHN CONYERS, JR.
Member of Congress



RUSS CARNAHAN
Member of Congress



DAVID LOEBSACK
Member of Congress

Betty Sutton

BETTY SUTTON
Member of Congress

Shelley Moore Capito

SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO
Member of Congress

Mike McIntyre

MIKE MCINTYRE
Member of Congress

Corrine Brown

CORRINE BROWN
Member of Congress

Dale E. Kildee

DALE L. KILDEE
Member of Congress

Eleanor A. Norton

ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON
Member of Congress

David N. Cicilline

DAVID N. CICILLINE
Member of Congress

Mark S. Critz

MARK S. CRITZ
Member of Congress

Edolphus Towns

EDOLPHUS TOWNS
Member of Congress

Mazie K. Hirono

MAZIE K. HIRONO
Member of Congress

Dennis J. Kucinich

DENNIS J. KUCINICH
Member of Congress

Gwen Moore

GWEN MOORE
Member of Congress

Chris P. Gibson

CHRISTOPHER P. GIBSON
Member of Congress

Chellie Pingree

CHELLIE PINGREE
Member of Congress

John Lewis

JOHN LEWIS
Member of Congress

Peter Welch

PETER WELCH
Member of Congress

Charles B. Rangel

CHARLES B. RANGEL
Member of Congress

Silvestre Reyes

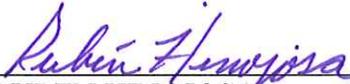
SILVESTRE REYES
Member of Congress



RICK LARSEN
Member of Congress



STEPHEN F. LYNCH
Member of Congress



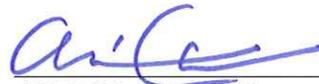
RUBEN HINOJOSA
Member of Congress



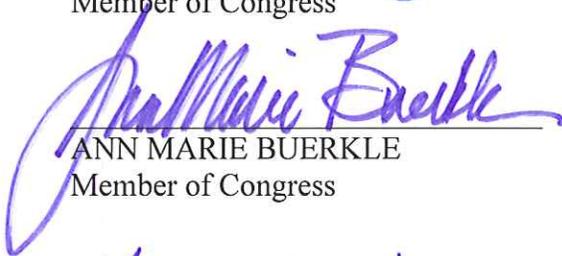
LEONARD L. BOSWELL
Member of Congress



DENNIS A. CARDOZA
Member of Congress



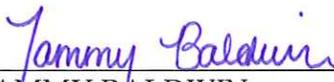
ANDRE CARSON
Member of Congress



ANN MARIE BUERKLE
Member of Congress



DANNY K. DAVIS
Member of Congress



TAMMY BALDWIN
Member of Congress



GARY C. PETERS
Member of Congress



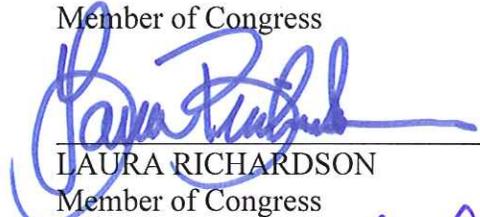
PETER A. DEFAZIO
Member of Congress



GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN
Member of Congress



MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO
Member of Congress



LAURA RICHARDSON
Member of Congress



COLLIN C. PETERSON
Member of Congress



G.K. BUTTERFIELD
Member of Congress



STEVE ISRAEL
Member of Congress



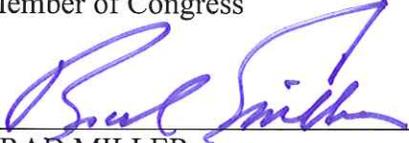
FREDERICA S. WILSON
Member of Congress



DANIEL LIPINSKI
Member of Congress



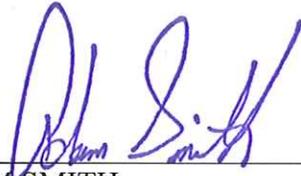
JERRY MCNERNEY
Member of Congress



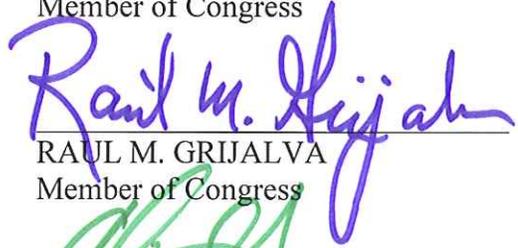
BRAD MILLER
Member of Congress



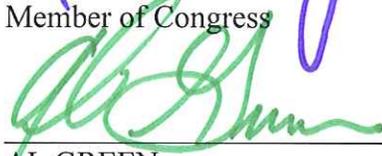
STEVE COHEN
Member of Congress



ADAM SMITH
Member of Congress



RAUL M. GRIJALVA
Member of Congress



AL GREEN
Member of Congress