

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 1, 2011

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker, House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Democratic Leader, House of Representatives
H-204, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Harold Rogers
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations
H-307, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Norm Dicks
Ranking Member, Committee on Appropriations
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Boehner, Leader Pelosi, Chairman Rogers and Ranking Member Dicks:

As you continue work on the measure that will fund the government for the remainder of FY 2011, we wanted to draw your attention to the strong support for the Economic Development Administration (EDA) that was demonstrated during consideration of H.R.1, the Full Year Continuing Appropriations Act of 2011.

Before final passage of H.R.1, the House of Representatives voted to include an amendment to restore \$80 million in funding for the EDA by an overwhelming margin of 305 to 127. Members of the House sent a clear message that funding for the EDA should continue at FY 2010 levels. Most importantly, the amendment received strong support from both sides of the aisle – 145 Republicans and 160 Democrats voted to support full funding for the agency.

As we continue to look for ways to support our ailing economy, we cannot afford to eliminate the programs that are proven job creators. Between 2004 and 2008, EDA funded projects directly led to the creation of approximately 200,000 jobs. Estimates indicate that the public works program generates “between 2.2 and 5 jobs per \$10,000 in incremental EDA funding, at a cost per job of between \$2,001 and \$4,611.” These are highly impressive rates of return for any public economic development agency, whether at federal, state or local level.

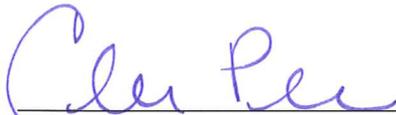
With well over four million private sector jobs created and roughly \$150 billion in private sector investment leveraged since its inception, EDA has amassed an impressive record of assisting communities struggling to overcome both long-term economic challenges and sudden economic hardships. While we must work to reduce ineffective programs, it is short-sighted to target a program that provides significant financial and employment returns for our federal investments.

As the House continues to consider the best way to responsibly reduce federal spending and decrease our nation’s debt, we sincerely hope that you will respect the overwhelming support for the EDA that was demonstrated during consideration of H.R.1, the Full Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2011.

Sincerely,


MICHAEL H. MICHAUD
Member of Congress

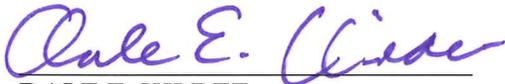

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CHELLIE PINGREE
Member of Congress



MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO
Member of Congress



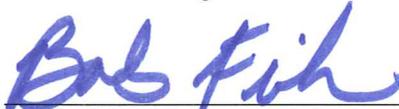
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Member of Congress



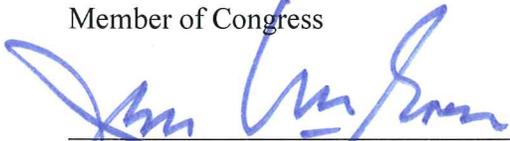
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Member of Congress



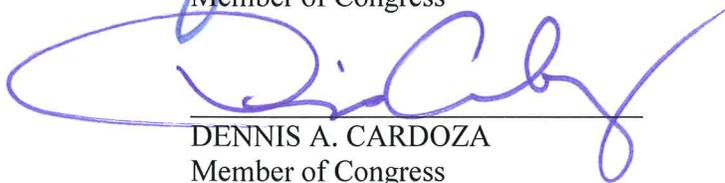
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MAZIE K. HIRONO
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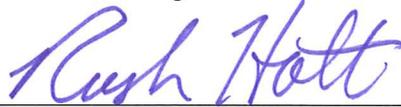
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Member of Congress



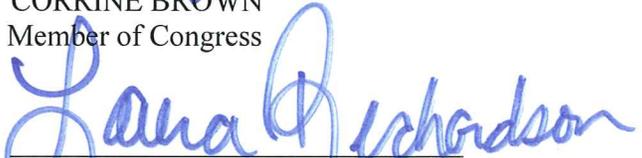
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