

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

March 25, 2015

The Honorable John Culberson  
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 Culberson and Ranking Member Fattah:

As you begin work preparing the fiscal year (FY) 2016 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, we urge you to include in the bill funding for the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) at the President's recommended FY2016 level of \$273 million, a \$23 million increase over the FY2015 enacted level.

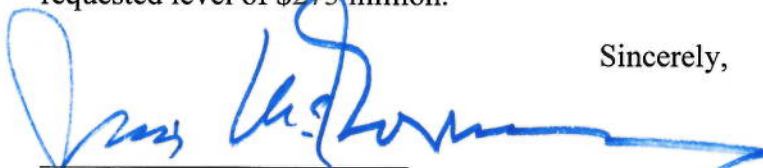
Since 1965, EDA has worked directly with local and regional stakeholders to address the economic needs of communities across the country. EDA is unique among federal programs in that it is focused solely on private sector job creation and economic growth in distressed areas. With a modest budget, EDA has developed a record of making strategic investments and building community and regional partnerships to grow high quality jobs in such areas as advanced manufacturing, science and technology, and emerging knowledge-based industries.

EDA partners with the nationwide network of Economic Development Districts and state and local officials to address the fundamental building blocks for economic growth: infrastructure investment, business development loans and financing, regional innovation strategies, and public-private partnerships. EDA is well positioned to assist communities as they respond to sudden and severe economic dislocations such as plant closures or major natural disasters.

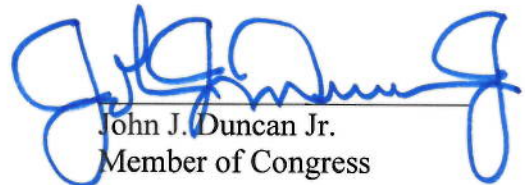
The President's FY2016 budget request for EDA represents an increase in funding for the core programs that provide direct assistance to communities for planning, public works and infrastructure improvements, and economic assistance to address sudden and dramatic changes to regional economies. These core programs provide the foundation for EDA investments to foster economic growth in communities across the country and we support increased funding for them.

We hope that in crafting your FY2016 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act you will give consideration to funding EDA at the President's requested level of \$273 million.


Sincerely,



James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress



John J. Duncan Jr.  
Member of Congress

  
Sander M. Levin  
Member of Congress


  
Rosa L. DeLauro  
Member of Congress

  
Peter Welch  
Member of Congress

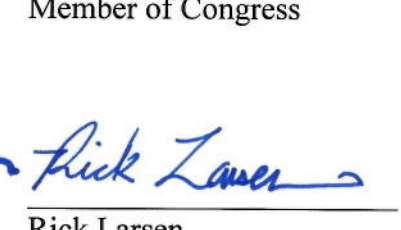
  
Filemon Vela  
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Sheila Jackson Lee  
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Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress

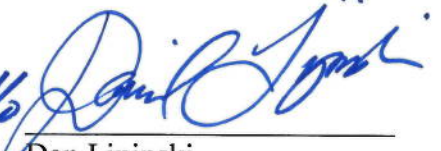
  
Lois Frankel  
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Stephen F. Lynch  
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Rick Larsen  
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Raúl M. Grijalva  
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Madeleine Z. Bordallo  
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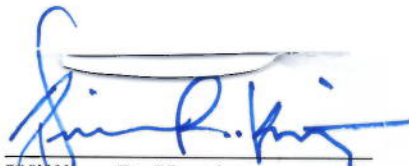
  
Dan Lipinski  
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Brian Higgins  
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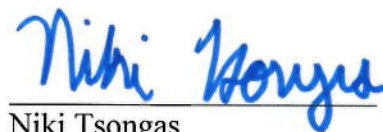
  
Eric Swalwell  
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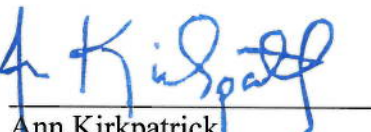
  
Juan Vargas  
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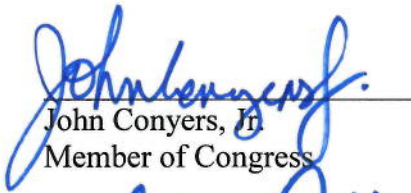
  
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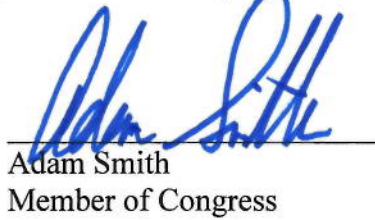
  
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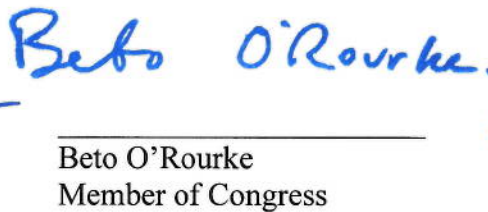
  
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Adam Smith  
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Bill Pascrell  
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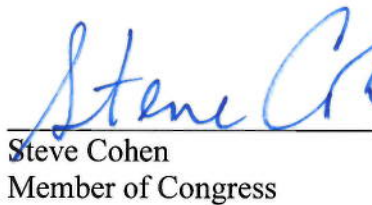
  
Tulsi Gabbard  
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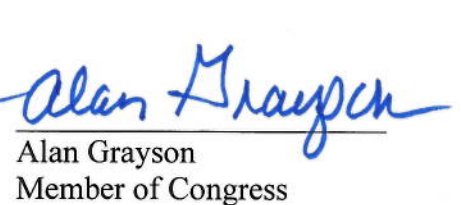
  
Ben Ray Lujan  
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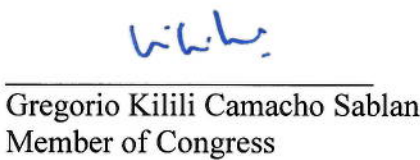
  
Beto O'Rourke  
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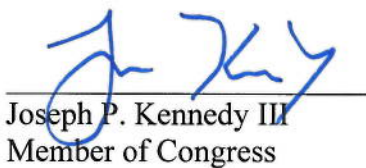
  
Keith Ellison  
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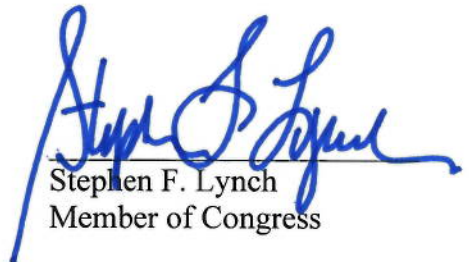
  
Debbie Dingell  
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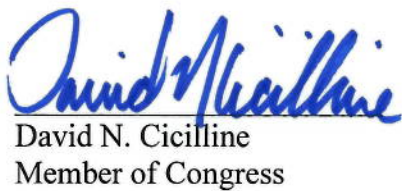
  
Steve Cohen  
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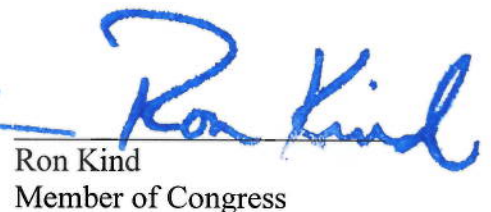
  
Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan  
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Joseph P. Kennedy III  
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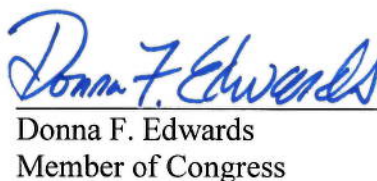
  
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David N. Cicilline  
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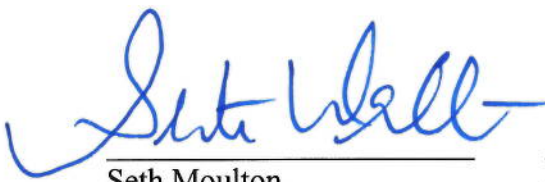
  
Matt Cartwright  
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Donna F. Edwards  
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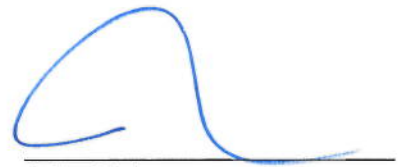
  
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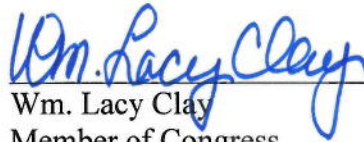
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Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.  
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Jim Costa  
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Wm. Lacy Clay  
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Stacey Plaskett  
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