

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 30, 2021

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen  
Chair  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,  
Science, and Related Agencies  
506 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jerry Moran  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,  
Science, and Related Agencies  
521 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chair Shaheen and Ranking Member Moran,

As you begin work preparing the Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, we urge you to include robust funding for the Economic Development Administration (EDA) and its vital grant programs.

Since 1965, EDA has helped local and regional stakeholders address the economic and infrastructure needs of communities across the country, focusing on private-sector job creation and economic growth in distressed areas.

With a modest budget, EDA programs have developed a record of making strategic investments and building community and regional partnerships to expand business in areas such as advanced manufacturing, science, health care, and technology. Between FY12 and FY19, EDA has invested over \$2.283 billion in 5,471 projects to help build the capacity for locally-driven economic development projects. These projects are expected to create and/or retain 335,620 jobs and attract over \$47.1 billion in private investment.

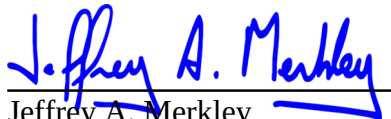
Many communities, especially those in rural areas, have benefited from EDA grants to support the job skills training, technical assistance, and infrastructure improvements needed to attract new businesses and ensure existing businesses have the opportunity to adapt to changing market circumstances. EDA has invested nearly 60 percent of its funds in rural areas since FY12, which has leveraged over \$13.7 billion in private investment in these communities.

EDA is useful in supporting job creation and innovation, particularly in distressed and disadvantaged communities. This aligns with the Administration's goals of building back stronger, more resilient economies. The agency is also a great tool that helps small businesses recover and communities rebuild critical infrastructure and economic development assets following natural disasters or public health emergencies.

As Congress has done in past fiscal years, we encourage you to include robust funding for the Economic Development Administration and its grant programs in the FY22 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act. We look forward to working with you to

ensure the success of the EDA, which has an exceptional record of supporting local communities across the nation to cost-effectively promote economic development.

Sincerely,



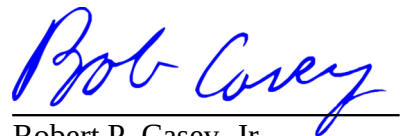
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United States Senator



James M. Inhofe  
United States Senator



Catherine Cortez Masto  
United States Senator



Robert P. Casey, Jr.  
United States Senator



Mike Crapo  
United States Senator



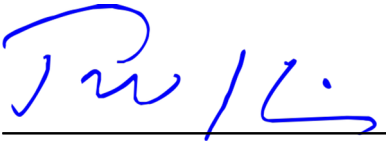
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Tammy Duckworth  
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Mark R. Warner  
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Tim Kaine  
United States Senator



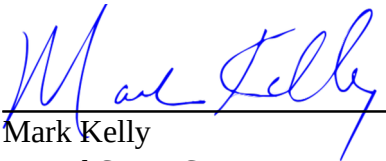
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United States Senator



Tina Smith  
United States Senator



Margaret Wood Hassan  
United States Senator



Mark Kelly  
United States Senator



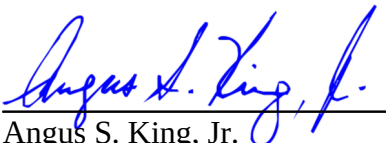
Sheldon Whitehouse  
United States Senator



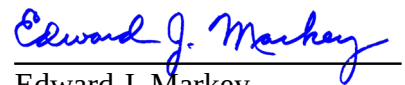
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M. Michael Rounds  
United States Senator



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United States Senator



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Amy Klobuchar  
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Ron Wyden  
United States Senator



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Jacky Rosen  
United States Senator



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Christopher A. Coons  
United States Senator



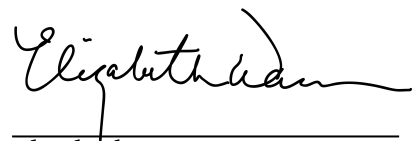
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James E. Risch  
United States Senator



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Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senator



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Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senator



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Benjamin L. Cardin  
United States Senator