



DELTA REGIONAL AUTHORITY

SUPPORT FUNDING IN THE FY2016 APPROPRIATIONS PROCESS

ACTION NEEDED: Urge your members of Congress, especially those serving on the House and Senate Appropriations Committees, to support funding for the Delta Regional Authority's (DRA) community and economic development programs at the president's fiscal year (FY) 2016 recommended level of \$12 million as part of a final FY2016 Energy and Water Development Appropriations measure. DRA resources are used for basic infrastructure improvements, job creation initiatives, leadership development, and other essential community and economic development investments in one of the most distressed regions of the nation.

BACKGROUND: The Delta Regional Authority is a regional economic development agency that represents a partnership between federal, state, and local government. Established in 2000, DRA works to improve life for the 10 million people who reside in the 252 Delta counties and parishes in eight states (Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, and Tennessee). DRA is governed by the governors of the eight Delta states and a federal co-chair, who is appointed by the president and confirmed by the U.S. Senate. Local participation is provided through multi-county local development districts.

The 252 counties and parishes served by the Delta Regional Authority make up one of the most distressed areas of the country. The disparities between the Delta region and the nation as a whole are stark. As defined by the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA), virtually all the counties and parishes in the region are distressed. The Delta region encompasses 111 of the 386 counties listed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) as suffering from "persistent poverty."

LATEST ACTION: The FY2015 omnibus appropriations bill (P.L. 113-235), enacted in December 2014, provides \$12 million for DRA, level with the FY2014 enacted level.

On February 2, the president released his FY2016 budget proposal, which also includes \$12 million for DRA.

In February 2014, the 2014 Farm Bill was signed into law. The Delta Regional Authority was reauthorized at \$30 million annually through September 30, 2018.

KEY TALKING POINTS

- Since its creation, the Delta Regional Authority has worked to improve the lives of the 10 million people who live in the Delta. Targeted investments in each of the eight states have helped create more than 9,000 jobs and retain more than 7,500 jobs. **With an overall leverage ratio of 22 to 1, DRA has leveraged \$1.7 billion in private investment with DRA projects and helped 25,500 families gain access to clean water and sewer service.**
- **Through its 11 annual investment cycles, DRA has invested \$108 million into 718 projects in the Delta region, leveraging \$632.6 million in other public funds and attracting \$1.7 billion in private-sector funds, for investments totaling \$2.4 billion.**
- DRA's strategic investments are currently helping to create and retain 23,292 jobs, provide clean water and working sewer to 35,236 families, and deliver job training or employment-related education to 24,750 people for jobs in their areas, all within a highly distressed part of the nation.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS
LEGISLATIVE FACT SHEET: DELTA REGIONAL AUTHORITY

For more information, please contact Susan Howard, Legislative Director, at 202.624.8590 / showard@nado.org or Ted Stiger, Legislative Associate, at 202.624.8476 / tstiger@nado.org.

For a list of members of the Senate and House Appropriations Committees, see below.

U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee

Majority:

Thad Cochran (R-MS)*, Full Chair
Mitch McConnell (R-KY)*
Richard Shelby (R-AL)*
Lamar Alexander (R-TN)*, Subcommittee Chair
Susan Collins (R-ME)*
Lisa Murkowski (R-AK)*
Lindsey Graham (R-SC)*
Mark Kirk (R-IL)
Roy Blunt (R-MO)
Jerry Moran (R-KS)
John Hoeven (R-ND)*
John Boozman (R-AR)
Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV)
Bill Cassidy (R-LA)
James Lankford (R-OK)*
Steve Daines (R-MT)

Minority:

Barbara Mikulski (D-MD), Full Ranking
Patrick Leahy (D-VT)
Patty Murray (D-WA)*
Dianne Feinstein (D-CA)*, Subcommittee Chair
Dick Durbin (D-IL)*
Jack Reed (D-RI)
Jon Tester (D-MT)*
Tom Udall (D-NM)*
Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH)*
Jeff Merkley (D-OR)*
Chris Coons (D-DE)*
Brian Schatz (D-HI)
Tammy Baldwin (D-WI)
Chris Murphy (D-CT)

**Indicates Senator serves on the
U.S. Senate Energy and Water Appropriations
Subcommittee*

U.S. House Appropriations Committee

Majority:

Harold Rogers (R-KY), Full Chair
Rodney P. Frelinghuysen (R-NJ)*
Robert B. Aderholt (R-AL)
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Chuck Fleischmann (R-TN)*
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David Joyce (R-OH)
David Valadao (R-CA)*
Andy Harris (R-MD)
Martha Roby (R-AL)
Mark Amodei (R-NV)
Chris Stewart (R-UT)
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David Jolly (R-FL)
David Young (R-IA)
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Steven Palazzo (R-MS)

Minority:

Nita M. Lowey (D-NY), Full Ranking
Marcy Kaptur (D-OH)*#
Peter J. Visclosky (D-IN)*
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Rosa L. DeLauro (D-CT)
David E. Price (D-NC)
Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-CA)*
Sam Farr (D-CA)
Chaka Fattah (D-PA)
Sanford D. Bishop, Jr. (D-GA)
Barbara Lee (D-CA)
Michael M. Honda (D-CA)*
Betty McCollum (D-MN)
Steve Israel (D-NY)
Tim Ryan (D-OH)
C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger (D-MD)
Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-FL)
Henry Cuellar (D-TX)
Chellie Pingree (D-ME)
Mike Quigley (D-IL)
Derek Kilmer (D-WA)

+Indicates Chair of the U.S. House Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee

#Indicates Ranking Member of the U.S. House Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee

**Indicates Representative serves on the U.S. House Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee*