

Michaud Hand Delivers Letter to EDA Advocating Funding for the Northern Border Regional Commission

Thursday, March 05 2009

WASHINGTON, DC – Today, during a meeting in his office, Congressman Mike Michaud hand delivered a letter to the Economic Development Administration requesting that funding from the stimulus package be used to fund the Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC). The NBRC was created by legislation authored by Michaud and passed into law last year. The NBRC is charged with investing in the economic development of the most economically distressed areas of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, and parts of Upstate New York.

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“Now that the commission is authorized, it must be funded so that it can get to work for our region,” said Michaud. “There was language in the stimulus bill directing funding for the Economic Development Administration to go to regional economic development commissions. If there was ever a time to get this commission off the ground it is now. That’s why I worked hard to get the language in the stimulus bill and why we must now hold the administration accountable and get them to fund it.”

The letter that Michaud delivered was signed by himself, Rep. Paul Hodes (D-NH), Rep. Carol Shea-Porter (D-NH), Rep. John McHugh (R-NY), Rep. Michael A. Arcuri (D-NY), Rep. Peter Welch (D-VT) and Rep. Chellie Pingree (D-ME). The NBRC’s approach to regional economic development is based on the highly successful Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) model.

In making their case for funding, the Members of Congress wrote: “This effective public–private partnership model has enjoyed overwhelming bipartisan support because it works and because it has been a good investment for the American taxpayer. For example, in Fiscal Year 2005, each dollar of ARC funding leveraged \$2.57 in other public funding and \$8.46 in private funding. This represents a tremendous return on investment.”

The complete text of the letter can be found below. The letter was also sent to Rahm Emmanuel, President Obama’s Chief of Staff and Melanie Barnes, President Obama’s Domestic Policy Advisor.

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March 5, 2009

Ms. Sandra R. Walters

Acting Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development

U.S. Department of Commerce

1401 Constitution Ave., NW

Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary Walters

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 included statutory language in support of a transfer of funds from the Economic Development Administration (EDA) to regional economic development commissions. We respectfully request that you direct funding to the Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC). By funding the NBRC, we can create jobs in our region through the investment of federal resources in the most economically distressed areas of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont and New York.

As the authors and cosponsors of language authorizing the NBRC, we strongly believe in its approach to regional economic development, which is based on the highly successful Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) model. This effective public–private partnership model has enjoyed overwhelming bipartisan support because it works and because it has been a good investment for the American taxpayer. For example, in Fiscal Year 2005, each dollar of ARC funding leveraged \$2.57 in other public funding and \$8.46 in private funding. This represents a tremendous return on investment.

Our entire region has been faced with tough economic circumstances that have caused us to lose jobs and businesses, see our incomes stay flat, and see our young people leave. The NBRC will help us tackle these problems together in a targeted way that has a proven track record of success. Working with the NBRC, our state leaders, communities, economic development experts, and local stakeholders will work together to promote solutions to our shared, regional challenges and return our constituents to work.

Thank you for your consideration of our request to help bring economic development and jobs to the Northern Border region.

Sincerely,

Mike Michaud

Paul Hodes

Carol Shea-Porter

John McHugh

Michael A. Arcuri

Peter Welch

Chellie Pingree