

Additional Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 Appropriations Highlights

Support for Economic Development in Southern and Eastern Kentucky

Economic Development Programs

- **Reclamation of Abandoned Mine Lands** – in addition to full support for the annual state AML grant program, an additional \$115 million is provided for the continuation of a pilot program successfully implemented in Fiscal Year 2016. This program targets opportunities for reclamation and job creation in struggling coal communities in Appalachia. Kentucky will receive an additional \$25 million in grants for reclamation and economic development.
- **Economic Development Administration (EDA)** – allocates \$304 million for the EDA, an increase of \$2.5 million from FY18. \$30 million is specifically carved out for EDA's Assistance to Coal Mining Communities Program, which supports locally-driven efforts to generate job creation, capital investment, workforce development and re-employment opportunities in coal country. Additionally, this legislation encourages the EDA to use these funds to support broadband infrastructure projects and to prioritize these projects in under and unserved areas.
- **Federal Prison System** – includes \$7.25 billion for Federal Prison System Salaries and Expenses, an increase of \$150 million from the FY18 enacted level, to support federal employees at the four federal prisons in our region. It also includes language expressing concern regarding the overcrowded prison populations, and directing the Bureau of Prisons to hire more full-time correctional staff before utilizing the dangerous practice of augmentation.
- **Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI)** – provides \$250 million to promote economic revitalization in low-income communities, level with the FY18 enacted amount. Kentucky-based organizations like Kentucky Highlands Investment Corporation and Community Ventures use these funds to help individuals buy homes, start and grow small businesses, as well as fund projects that improve our local communities. The bill also includes funds to offer training to CDFIs serving distressed regions to increase their expertise and capacity to undertake community development finance activities.
- **SBA HubZone Program** – includes \$3 million to help small businesses in rural communities gain preferential access to federal procurement opportunities, level with the FY18 enacted amount.
- **National Parks** – provides \$3.22 billion for the National Park Service, including much-needed funding for park maintenance. These funds will support projects at Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area, Cumberland Gap National Historic Park and Mammoth Cave National Park in Kentucky.
- **Battlefield Protection** – provides \$10 million for the American Battlefield Protection Program, which promotes the preservation of significant historic battlefields associated with wars on American soil.

Rural Infrastructure

- **Clean Water and Drinking Water** – provides \$1.7 billion to the Clean Water State Revolving Fund and \$1.2 billion for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund, which support local drinking water and sewer construction projects. These funding levels represent a \$600 million increase from the President’s budget request. It also includes \$68 million for Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act grants, \$5 million more than FY18. Finally, the bill allocates nearly \$2 billion from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) in loans and grants for rural water and waste projects, including funding to help communities of 3,300 or less plan, improve, or manage their water systems.
- **Rural Housing programs** – \$25.345 billion is included for the USDA Rural Housing Service, including \$25 billion in direct and unsubsidized Section 502 Loans and \$28 million for the Housing Repair program. Within HUD, \$54 million is provided for the Self-Help and Assisted Homeownership Program. \$1.3 billion is also included for the HOME Investment Partnerships Program to help state and local governments provide affordable housing options to low-income residents.
- **USDA Infrastructure Programs** – provides over \$2.8 billion for Rural Community Facilities loans and grants, which support the construction of healthcare facilities, town halls, child care centers, police offices, libraries, food pantries and other essential communal infrastructure. The bill also provides \$5.5 billion in loans to finance power generation, transmission, and distribution systems and \$690 million for telecommunications infrastructure in rural areas. Additionally, there is \$550 million in new USDA funding to provide access to high-speed internet services throughout rural America, with preference to areas currently underserved.
- **Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)** – includes \$3.4 billion for grants that provide critical infrastructure funding to states and local communities to address economic development and housing needs.
- **Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grants** – includes \$900 million for BUILD grants, with 50% specifically allocated for projects in rural communities. This program was recently used in the Fifth District to help create a cloverleaf intersection at Ky. 80 and Ky. 461.

Pro Coal Provisions

- **Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Funding / Oversight** – maintains EPA funding at current levels, a reduction of \$2.239 billion from its height in FY10. The EPA’s staffing is near its lowest level in 30 years, and has been reduced nearly 3,500 positions since its peak in FY99. It also reins in the EPA’s economically harmful regulatory agenda by cutting funding for regulatory programs by \$15 million.
- **Prohibits funding for the Green Climate Fund**, an international effort to raise climate finance under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.
- **Impact on Coal Exports** – includes language prohibiting any funds in the bill from being used to either directly or indirectly prohibit coal-fired power projects around the globe.

Support for Combatting the Drug Epidemic

- **Treatment and Reentry** – the bill includes \$77 million for drug courts at the Department of Justice to support non-violent offenders in their recovery. An additional \$22 million is included for Veterans Treatment Courts to help our men and women in uniform who are struggling with addiction. Both of these accounts are funded at \$2 million more than the FY18 enacted level. Offender reentry and research activities under the Second Chance Act are also funded at \$87.5 million.
- **Community Prevention** – \$100 million is approved for the Drug Free Communities Program, which provides funding to community-based groups seeking to prevent youth substance abuse.
- **Support for Federal and Local Drug Enforcement Initiatives**
 - \$280 million is provided for the **High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA)** program to assist federal, state, and local authorities clean up trafficking hot-spots, which will enable the Appalachian HIDTA to continue its work in southern and eastern Kentucky.
 - The **Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA)** is funded at \$2.6 billion, with \$419.5 million specifically allocated to combat the illicit diversion of prescription drugs.
 - \$32 million is included for **Anti-Heroin Task Forces** and \$8 million is continued for **Anti-Meth Task Forces**.
 - **Byrne Justice Assistance Grants** – includes \$423.5 million, an increase of \$8.5 million over the FY18 enacted level. This funding will support all components of the criminal justice system, from drug and gang task forces to domestic violence programs, treatment, and justice information sharing. These funds will go a long way to keep Kentucky safe.
- **International Drug Interdiction** – supports President Trump’s “Initiative to Stop Opioid Abuse and Reduce Drug Supply and Demand” by increasing funding to help Mexico secure its borders and combat poppy cultivation and heroin and synthetic drug production; increasing funding to support precursor chemical control; and increasing funding for global demand reduction programs. The bill also directs the Secretary of State to develop an international diplomatic and assistance strategy to stop the flow of opioids into the United States.

Other Highlights

- **Comprehensive School Safety** – includes \$100 million for the STOP School Violence Act, which Congressman Rogers championed into law last year, an increase of \$25 million from FY18. These grants will help students, teachers, and officers receive the training they need to identify warning signs and threats of violence before they occur.
- **Gaining Access to Local Television** – includes language expressing the importance of access to local television programming, including news, politics, sports, and emergency programming. The language directs the Federal Communications Commission to place a premium on the importance of localism when considering broadcast station petitions to be included on satellite television. Many residents of eastern Kentucky do not have access to true local news, and this language will help local stations in their efforts to reach local viewers.

- **Legal Services Corporation** – provides \$415 million for the Legal Services Corporation, an increase of \$5 million over the FY18 enacted level. This funding has helped eastern Kentucky in past years by assisting many of the victims of the Eric C. Conn fraud scheme. This funding will continue to assist those in need to have access to legal representation.
- **Protections for the Unborn** – the legislation includes a number of long-standing pro-life measures, including a prohibition on the use of federal funds for abortion services, withholding funds from international organizations that participate in the management of coercive abortion programs, and rejection of attempts to roll back the President’s expanded Mexico City policy.