

The Fiscal Year 2017 Omnibus Appropriations bill provides support for key federal programs that benefit Southern and Eastern Kentucky. In addition to the eleven remaining appropriations bills, Congressman Rogers worked to ensure the package also includes a legislative fix to permanently resolve challenges with health care coverage for retired coal miners, their spouses and dependents.

### **Economic and Rural Development**

Congressman Rogers worked to secure funding for federal programs that support economic development in rural communities, with a particular emphasis on creating new job opportunities in coal country. Examples include:

- **Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC)** – provides \$152 million for ARC, which supports economic growth in distressed counties in the Appalachian region. An additional \$10 million is available to deploy high-speed, high-capacity broadband in distressed central Appalachian counties.
- **Economic Development Administration (EDA)** – allocates \$276 million for the EDA, an increase of \$15 million above the fiscal year 2016 level. These funds will help spur increased international and domestic commerce. The bill specifically carves out \$30 million for EDA’s Assistance to Coal Mining Communities program – double the 2016 level.
- **Reclamation of Abandoned Mine Lands (AML)** – provides \$132 million for the reclamation of abandoned mine lands in coal communities nationwide. In addition, the bill includes \$105 million for the continuation of the AML Pilot Program successfully implemented in Fiscal Year 2016. This program targets opportunities for reclamation and job creation in struggling coal communities in Appalachia. This program is currently being piloted in Kentucky, Pennsylvania and West Virginia, and will be expanded to include Virginia, Alabama and Ohio in Fiscal Year 2017. Under this program, Kentucky will receive \$25 million in grants for reclamation and economic development.
- **Water Reallocation Study at Lake Cumberland** – prohibits the US Army Corps of Engineers from completing a Water Reallocation Study for Lake Cumberland. This study would result in nearby towns and other users paying more for access to water at the lake.
- **Job Training** – supports the Employment and Training Administration at \$9.97 billion. This program has supported the ongoing efforts of Shaping Our Appalachian Region (SOAR) through grants for job training initiatives to help support families impacted by layoffs in the coal industry.
- **National Parks** – provides \$2.4 billion for the National Park Service, including much-needed funding for park maintenance and \$55 million for the celebration of the National Park Centennial. 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.

- **USDA Rural Development** – The bill provides a total of \$2.94 billion for rural development programs, which is \$166 million above the fiscal year 2016 enacted level. These programs help create an environment for economic growth by supporting basic rural infrastructure, providing loans to increase opportunities for rural businesses and industries, and helping balance the playing field in local rural housing markets.
- **Support for rural housing programs** – \$950 million is included for the HOME Investment Partnerships Program to help state and local governments provide affordable housing options to low-income people. An additional \$1 billion is included for USDA Section 502 Direct Loans and \$50 million for Self-Help Housing programs.
- **Community Development Financial Institutions** – provides \$248 million to promote economic revitalization in low-income communities. 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.
- **Head Start** – \$9.3 billion is provided for Head Start programs that promote school readiness, an important part of preparing children for a successful future in the region.
- **Community Service Block Grants, Rural Community Facilities, and Community Economic Development Grants** – provides \$736 million that will allow Community Action Agencies to continue their efforts to support low-income individuals increase self-sufficiency.
- **Natural Resources Conservation Service Emergency Watershed Protection Program** – provides \$150 million to help communities recover from emergencies created by natural disasters. Kentucky communities utilize these funds to respond to imminent hazards to life and property created by floods, fires, and windstorms.
- **HubZone** – includes \$3 million to help small businesses in rural communities gain preferential access to federal procurement opportunities.
- **Payment in Lieu of Taxes** – fully funds the Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program for Fiscal Year 2016 at \$465 million. The PILT program compensates local communities for lost tax revenues due to the presence of Federal lands within their boundaries. Funding from this program will benefit almost every county in the 5<sup>th</sup> Congressional District.
- **Clean Water and Drinking Water** – provides \$2.3 billion to the Clean and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds, which support local drinking water and sewer construction projects. The bill also provides funding to improve water quality and ensure the safety of drinking water in rural communities through technical assistance grants.

## **Combats Drug Abuse**

Great strides have been made in combatting drug abuse in southern and eastern Kentucky and across the Commonwealth; however, still too many lives are lost each year due to accidental drug overdoses. An additional \$681 million above current levels is provided to fight the opioid epidemic. The following measures are included in the bill to help save lives:

- **Drug Enforcement** – the bill increases funding to \$254 million 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 legislation also includes \$2.1 billion for the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), a \$23 million increase over 2016 enacted levels. \$382 million is specifically allocated to combat the diversion of prescription drugs. In addition, \$234 million is included for the National Guard’s Counter-drug program, which supports ongoing marijuana eradication efforts in the Daniel Boone National Forrest. \$10 million is provided to support state and local law enforcement efforts to clean up methamphetamine labs, and \$10 million is provided to support heroin task forces around the country.
- **Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs (PDMP)** – the legislation provides \$14 million to implement and enhance PDMPs, which help doctors make good prescribing decision and investigators root out bad actors.
- **Drug Courts** – includes \$103 million for the Department of Justice (DOJ) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to help non-violent offenders struggling with addiction. An additional \$7 million is included for Veterans Treatment Courts to help our men and women in uniform who are struggling with addiction, and \$2 million will be available to train drug court judges around the country.
- **Prevention and Treatment** – the legislation provides \$150 million increase for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and \$1.25 million to help states implement model drug legislation. In addition, the bill appropriates \$112 million for the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to continue its Opioid Prescription Drug Overdose Prevention program and \$56 million for Medication-Assisted Treatment grants. The bill also allocates \$97 million to the Drug Free Communities Program, which provides funding to community-based groups seeking to prevent youth substance abuse. Finally, the legislation encourages HHS to facilitate training of healthcare professionals and paramedics and to increase access to emergency devices, like Naloxone, and allocates.

## **Reins in Anti-Coal Regulations and Promotes an All-of-the-Above Energy Strategy**

Since 2009, Eastern Kentucky has lost nearly 12,000 coal mining jobs, plus countless more coal-reliant jobs in the region. In an effort to put coal miners back to work and reduce overburdensome and ineffective regulations from the Obama Administration, the following measures were included in the federal funding bill:

- **EPA Oversight –**
  - Cuts EPA funding by \$81.4M from Fiscal Year 2016 levels, which is \$209 million below President Obama’s budget request.
  - Maintains the staffing reductions achieved in Fiscal Year 2016 at 1989 levels.
  - Supports President Trump’s recent Executive Orders by providing the Administration with the ability to review the Waters of the United States Rule and the Clean Power Plan, among other onerous environmental regulations.
  - Calls for increased congressional oversight of EPA’s review of mining permits by requiring the agency to report on the backlog of pending mining permits
  
- **Definition of “Fill Material” and Clean Water Act Permits –** prohibits the US Army Corps of Engineers from making any changes to the definition of “fill material.” This will protect the coal industry in Appalachia from burdensome new regulatory requirements involving fill material management. The bill also prohibits the use of the Clean Water Act to regulate agricultural areas such as farm ponds and irrigation ditches.
  
- **Fossil Energy Research –** advances an “all of the above” energy strategy by investing in fossil energy research that will make coal a cleaner burning and more efficient fuel. Department of Energy (DOE) Fossil Energy Research programs are funded at \$668 million, which is \$36 million above fiscal year 2016 funding levels. DOE Carbon Capture and Sequestration (CCS) and Power Systems Program is funded at \$423 million, with \$53 million set aside for the National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL), which focuses on coal, natural gas and oil technologies.
  
- **Keeping foreign coal markets open –** the bill prohibits a component of President Obama’s damaging Climate Change Policy that would stop the United States from investing in coal-fired power plants in developing countries.
  
- **Mine Safety –** provides oversight of the Mine Safety and Health Administration and ensures that agency resources are applied efficiently and effectively to protect our hardworking miners.