



December 6, 2024

The Honorable Thomas Carper
Chairman
Committee on Environment and Public Works
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Sam Graves
Chairman
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Ranking Member
Committee on Environment and Public Works
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Rick Larsen
Ranking Member
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives

Dear Chairman Carper, Ranking Member Capito, Chairman Graves, and Ranking Member Larsen,

On behalf of the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) and the hundreds of community and economic development organizations we represent across the country, we are pleased to express our strong support for **S. 4367, the *Thomas R. Carper Water Resources Development Act of 2024***. We applaud your leadership in reaching a bipartisan, bicameral agreement on this important legislative package.

NADO represents the national network of hundreds of Regional Development Organizations (RDOs) and EDA-designated Economic Development Districts (EDDs) across the country, which collectively serve thousands of cities, counties, and towns. NADO advocates for federal policies and programs that promote community development, economic competitiveness, rural revitalization, economic mobility, and quality of place.

To that end, we are particularly pleased with the inclusion of the **reauthorization of the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration (EDA)** within the final agreement. EDA plays a vital role in partnering with RDOs and EDDs to catalyze regional economic growth and to fulfill locally identified community and economic development priorities. The reauthorization of the EDA for the first time in 20 years is critically important, as it will modernize and update EDA's core programs, thereby enhancing EDA's ability to address key national priorities including disaster preparedness

and mitigation, workforce development, broadband expansion, small business support, and rural community prosperity.

The reforms detailed within the ***Economic Development Reauthorization Act*** title of S. 4367 will also enhance the ability of EDA-designated Economic Development Districts to develop high quality, locally driven comprehensive economic development strategies that serve as a guiding document for catalyzing regional and rural revitalization, and to perform other support functions within their communities. For these reasons, NADO applauds the inclusion of EDA reauthorization within S. 4367.

Again, thank you for your leadership in finalizing this legislative package, which will have a significant impact on the economic development and competitiveness of communities across the nation. NADO stands ready to help support the successful implementation of this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'JM', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Joe McKinney
Executive Director
National Association of Development Organizations