

December 6, 2024

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

The Honorable Sam Graves
Chair
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 Chair Carper, Ranking Member Capito, Chair Graves, and Ranking Member Larsen,

On behalf of communities across the country, the undersigned members of the EDA Stakeholders Coalition are pleased to express our strong support for the ***Thomas R. Carper Water Resources Development Act of 2024 (S. 4367)***.

We are especially grateful for the **inclusion of the provision to reauthorize the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration (EDA)** within this legislation. This provision will make vital improvements and reforms to EDA's core programs, enhancing the agency's ability to address critical national priorities including disaster preparedness and mitigation, workforce development, broadband expansion, small business support, and rural community development.

We deeply appreciate your leadership in championing this legislation, and we thank you for your commitment to negotiating a bipartisan, bicameral agreement that includes reauthorization of the EDA.

If enacted into law, this critical legislation will address many of the most pressing challenges that communities are facing, while also strengthening our nation's economic competitiveness. Furthermore, this bill will help maximize the impact of EDA's investments and will enhance the agency's ability to foster resilient and diversified economies; support American businesses; strengthen workforce preparedness; and improve critical infrastructure.

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, thank you for your leadership, and we stand ready to support the successful implementation of this legislation.

Sincerely,

National Association of Development Organizations
International Economic Development Council
National Association of Counties
National League of Cities
National Association of Regional Councils
Outdoor Recreation Roundtable Association

Rural Voices for Conservation Coalition

SSTI

Greater New Orleans Inc.

Rural Community Assistance Partnership

RuralProgress

Local Initiatives Support Corporation

Outdoor Industry Association