



CREATING GOOD JOBS, A CLEAN ENVIRONMENT, AND A FAIR AND THRIVING ECONOMY

The BlueGreen Alliance Urges Funding of Key Programs for Workers and the Environment in FY19 Appropriations Bills

April 10, 2018

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
S-128, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Vice Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
S-146A, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Shelby and Vice Chairman Leahy:

As a coalition of the nation's largest labor unions and environmental groups, collectively representing millions of members and supporters, we write to strongly oppose damaging cuts outlined in the president's FY19 budget and urge Congress to fully fund key agencies and programs that protect workers and the environment in its FY19 appropriations bills.

The recently passed FY18 omnibus was a clear rejection of the cuts proposed in President Trump's FY18 budget to key agencies and programs that Americans rely on: programs that ensure safe workplaces and communities; spur innovation and economic growth, including infrastructure investments; and invest in workers and hard-hit communities. The proposed cuts would have made workplaces more dangerous; subjected communities to greater risk of industrial pollution, spills, and explosions; and stifled economic growth and innovation. We thank Members of the House and Senate for sending a clear message to the president by rejecting these harmful cuts, but we remain concerned that many of these same cuts were proposed in the president's budget request for FY19.

As Congress moves forward with funding the government for FY19, we urge Congress to once again reject these cuts and fully fund key agencies and programs that:

Ensure Worker and Community Safety

President Trump's FY19 budget cuts 21 percent from the Department of Labor (DOL) and 23 percent from the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) budget. This cut would hamper enforcement: the Trump budget proposal slashes the EPA's Science and Technology enforcement program by almost 23 percent; its Environmental Programs and Management enforcement by over 17 percent; and its Environmental Justice enforcement program by a whopping 70 percent—among others. With these cutbacks, the agencies tasked with protecting workers and communities would not be able to implement and enforce key protections already on the books. This includes regulations like the nation's long-standing industrial safety rules, which help protect communities, workers, and emergency responders from catastrophic industrial chemical releases, fires, and

explosions. These cuts would ensure fewer inspectors are on the job and more people are placed in harm's way.

The proposed cuts would also significantly undermine the implementation and enforcement of long-standing safeguards like the Clean Air Act and Clean Water Act, which have protected our environment and public health for decades. While the budget includes a modest increase to the EPA's Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds (CWSRF and DWSRF), it would all but eliminate critical programs like the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative and Chesapeake Bay program, which protect regional watersheds. It also slashes over \$550 million in grants and guaranteed loans from the Department of Agriculture's Water and Waste Disposal Loan and Grant Program, which provides funding for clean drinking water systems, sewage disposal systems, and stormwater drainage for rural households and businesses. Of course, these clean air, water, and climate protections also support critical outdoor industries, and they ensure that America's families and sportsmen and women can continue to enjoy some of our nation's most treasured places.

The budget also once again eliminates the Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board, an independent agency that investigates chemical disasters and makes recommendations to improve industrial safety practices. It also eliminates funding for the DOL Occupational Safety and Health Administration Susan Harwood Training Grant Program, which funds training programs for workers and employers to maintain safety and health in the workplace.

Spur Innovation and Economic Growth

The president's budget eliminates a number of programs and grants that spur innovation, generate economic growth, and create jobs. For example, despite the administration's repeated commitment to infrastructure investment, the president's budget would eliminate federal funding for dozens of new transit projects pending across the country. Robust, ongoing transit investments are not only critical to support local economic development and workers' access to jobs and opportunities, but they also support transportation manufacturing jobs far from the projects themselves. The proposed budget would also terminate the popular Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) competitive grant program, which funds innovative transportation projects targeted at spurring local, regional, and state economic development.

Similarly, hundreds of thousands of manufacturing workers nationwide are working today building the technology that increases fuel economy and cuts emissions under soundly structured vehicle standards that spur innovation and investment in the automotive industry. Proposed cuts to the EPA would impact not only our effective transportation rulemaking and agency staff, but also preeminent government technical centers and resources, such as the vehicle testing and certification laboratory at EPA's Office of Transportation Air Quality. This cavalier attitude could result in investment-stifling uncertainty, loss of world-leading technical expertise and oversight, and harm to American consumers and manufacturing leadership.

The budget would clearly threaten the nation's global competitiveness and innovation edge when it comes to energy and transportation. The budget eliminates funding for the Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy (ARPA-E), a program at the Department of Energy (DOE) that promotes innovative technology research and development. It would eliminate funding for all DOE loan programs, including its Title XVII innovative clean energy projects loan program and Advanced Technology Vehicles Manufacturing (ATVM) loan program—programs that ensure that we not only invent the next generation of technology in America, but that we build it here too. It would also dismantle much of the government's work on climate change, which is critical both to the environment we leave our children as well as to our economic strength. Policies and programs that invest in low-carbon energy and energy-efficient technologies help spur innovation, investment, and manufacturing while ensuring that the U.S. does not fall behind in the development and commercialization of the technologies that are driving an increasing share of economic growth around the world.

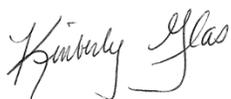
Invest in Hard-Hit Communities

President Trump's budget abandons communities hit hard by the decline of coal and other economically distressed communities. It eliminates—as it did in FY18—the Economic Development Administration (EDA) at the Department of Commerce, which provides critical grants and planning assistance to support workforce development, economic diversification, and community revitalization through its Assistance to Coal Communities Program. The president's budget also terminates the Department of the Interior's Abandoned Mine Land (AML) program, which cleans up retired coal mines and revitalizes coal communities.

Ultimately, Americans want strong protections for the workplace and the environment. They also want to lead the world in the kind of innovation that will create quality jobs in the U.S. while ensuring we leave a clean and safe environment for future generations. They want the government to work for them and they count on hard-working government employees carrying out essential tasks in many communities.

Congress's recent budget caps deal gives it the flexibility to move forward with an alternative plan that serves America's working families. Below are key agencies and programs that we urge Congress to prioritize. These suggestions are not exhaustive, but we believe they will move us forward on the path towards protecting working families and the environment while driving innovation and quality job creation.

Sincerely,



Kim Glas
Executive Director
BlueGreen Alliance

Key Programs to Protect Workers and the Environment

Department of Energy (DOE)

Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE)

The role of this agency is to ensure that America remains a leader in clean energy production as the world moves from traditional energy to cleaner and more efficient forms. In 2017, the program was funded at \$2.09 billion; for FY19, the president's budget requests \$696 million, which is a \$1.3 billion slash in the office's operating budget, or a reduction of nearly 67 percent.

- ***Advanced Manufacturing Office (AMO)***: Continued research and development is critical to the future of manufacturing in the United States. AMO works with other agencies and programs across the government to help ensure America leads not just in inventing new technology, but in the cutting edge technologies and processes to manufacture it, and to spur energy and manufacturing efficiency and competitiveness.
- ***Building Technologies Program (BTP)***: Commercial and residential buildings account for around 40 percent of the nation's energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions. The BTP has provided invaluable research, development, demonstration, and technical assistance for the building efficiency industry and related suppliers and manufacturers. With a continued dedication, these industries will hopefully continue to grow exponentially, leading to greater job creation and reduced energy use.
- ***Vehicles Technology Office (VTO)***: The VTO is at the forefront of developing and commercializing key advanced clean vehicle and fuel technologies that are saving Americans money at the pump, deeply cutting pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, and aiding job growth in the domestic auto industry. These programs have helped spur domestic advances in critical electric vehicle battery, electronics, and fuels technologies.
- ***Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)***: Low-income families are particularly vulnerable to volatile energy bills. Weatherization reduces energy bills by over \$270 per year per family. It creates much-needed jobs in a stagnant construction industry. The WAP has consistently delivered on its objectives, weatherizing more and more homes each year. We must keep our focus on lowering energy bills and creating jobs in the budding energy efficiency industry.
- ***State Energy Program (SEP)***: In a time of significant energy transition, states are bombarded with critical decisions that impact their consumers, businesses, and economy. Since 2013, the SEP has provided states and territories with more than \$300 million in financial assistance. Benefits to states include assistance in energy cost and waste, expansion of energy resources in the state, and promotion of economic growth with improved environmental quality.

Loan Programs Office

By issuing loans and guarantees for innovative energy and vehicle technologies—through the Advanced Technology Vehicles Manufacturing Loan Program (ATVM) and the Title XVII Innovative Technology Loan Guarantee Program—the Loan Programs Office helps bring advanced technologies to market and keep America at the forefront of these advancements. The FY17 omnibus appropriated \$37 million and \$5 million to the Title XVII and ATVM programs, respectively. The president's 2019 budget requests the elimination of the Loan Programs Office.

Advanced Research Projects Agency – Energy (ARPA-E)

ARPA-E provides crucial funding for new technologies in the energy space for innovators whose ideas may be too advanced or untested for private market investment. These innovators are producing cutting-edge avenues to storing, generating, and utilizing energy. While the 2017 funding

bill provided \$306 million for the program, the 2019 Trump budget proposes to completely eliminate it.

Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC)

Coal Impacted Communities Initiative

The Appalachian Regional Commission has a unique ability to partner with coal-impacted communities and increase their ability to compete for new jobs and outside investment. Over the last 5 years, ARC created or retained over 100,000 jobs and leveraged \$2.7 billion in private investments. Looking forward, ARC's investments alone are projected to create or retain almost 7,000 jobs, benefit more than 23,000 students and workers, and leverage almost \$142 million into the region's economy. In the 2017 omnibus, the program was funded at \$50 million; thankfully, for FY 2019, the president's Budget keeps this program fully funded.

Department of Commerce

Economic Development Administration – Assistance to Coal Communities

Between FY12 and FY16, the Economic Development Administration (EDA) invested nearly \$1.4 billion in 3,244 projects to help communities and regions build economic development capacity. A fraction of these projects (615 projects) is expected to create or retain 226,393 jobs and attract nearly \$29 billion in private investment. Critically, the EDA's Assistance to Coal Communities program provides small grants and planning assistance to support workforce development, economic diversification, and community revitalization projects in areas impacted by the declining use of coal. In 2017, the program was funded at \$30 million; this year, the President has requested the elimination of the EDA entirely.

Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP)

By improving our manufacturing sector's productivity and effectiveness, we improve our nation's competitiveness. The MEP program has a long track record of providing necessary assistance to industries. Our nation's MEP centers are crucial to national and local efforts to assist small- and medium-sized manufacturers' transition to the low-carbon economy.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds (SRF)

Getting our drinking and clean water systems to an American Society of Civil Engineers "B" grade over the next 10 years would require an investment of \$105 billion and could create about 654,000 job-years across the U.S. economy. The Clean Water SRF—which provide loans for the construction of wastewater facilities, nonpoint source pollution control, and estuary protection projects—and the Drinking Water SRF—which provide financial assistance to help water systems comply with the Safe Drinking Water Act—are key to improving the state of our water infrastructure. Since its inception in 1987, cumulative assistance under the Clean Water SRF has surpassed \$126 billion and continues to grow through interest earnings, principal repayments, and leveraging.

Great Lakes Restoration Initiative and Chesapeake Bay program

Since 2010, the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative has played a key role in protecting the world's largest system of fresh surface water. The Chesapeake Bay program, launched in 1983, has worked to coordinate conservation and restoration of this important water system. While the 2017 omnibus funded these programs cumulatively with \$420 million, the 2019 Trump budget cuts them by over 90 percent, effectively eliminating the programs.

EPA's Office of Transportation and Air Quality (OTAQ)

OTAQ's programs seek to reduce air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions from vehicles, planes, trains, and other engines in order to protect public health and the environment. The greenhouse gas standards set by OTAQ are critical to advancement in fuel efficiency technologies which in turn cut pollution, enhance energy security, and support advancements in the domestic automotive industry.

Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) Implementation

The work of the EPA on industrial chemicals needs to be maintained to protect the health of the American people and the safety of the products we use every day.

Water Infrastructure for Improvements to the Nation (WIIN) Act Grants

As part of the 2016 WIIN Act, Congress created three grant programs to help ensure that all Americans have access to clean, safe, and reliable drinking water. These grant programs directly fund replacement of lead service lines, assist with disadvantaged communities' infrastructure projects, and help defray the costs of safe drinking water installation for schools across the country.

Department of Transportation (DOT)

Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) competitive grant program

The TIGER grant program allows the U.S. DOT to target investments across modes and regions where they will have the most impact, providing lower cost loans and loan guarantees. Created in 2009, it has funded more than \$4.1 billion in projects, including almost \$1 billion for transit and \$800 million for rail. Every year the demand for these grants far exceeds the available funding. The 2017 funding bill provided \$500 million for the program; however, the 2019 Trump budget proposes to eliminate it entirely.

Federal Transit Administration (FTA)

The FTA works with state and local governments to create and improve public transportation throughout the United States. FTA's financial and technical assistance to local transit systems allows for much needed upkeep, modernization and expansion of service. Transit rail systems provide a critical foundation for a competitive economy and generate jobs and economic growth across the country. The FY19 budget decreases the FTA's funding by approximately \$1.3 billion dollars, including significant cuts to Capital Investment Grants and Washington, D.C. Metro.

Chemical Safety Board

This small independent, non-regulatory agency, created in 1990, plays a crucial role in ensuring worker safety by investigating catastrophic chemical accidents in order to determine the cause and make recommendations to prevent future incidents. While the president's 2019 budget allocates an extra million dollars over the FY 17 omnibus's enacted level of \$11 million, this extra funding is to be allocated for closing the board down entirely.

Department of Labor

Occupational Safety Health Administration (OSHA) & Susan Harwood Training Grant Program

OSHA saves lives. Maintaining the OSHA budget means: preserving OSHA's capacity to inspect American workplaces and investigate whistleblower complaints; continuing to make the OSHA

website a key resource for U.S. employers and workers; collecting data on safety and health issues in American workplaces; and developing new standards to address our country's most pressing workplace safety and health issues. The Susan Harwood Training Grant Program funds critical training programs for workers and employers in high-hazard industries in order to maintain safety and worker protections in the workplace. The 2017 omnibus funded OSHA at \$552.8 million, with \$10.5 million of that going to the Susan Harwood Training Grant Program. The president's FY19 request cuts OSHA by \$3.8 million and eliminates the Susan Harwood program entirely.

POWER Dislocated Worker Grants (DWGs)

Under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, POWER DWGs provide resources to coal communities to support workforce development and prepare those communities for high-demand occupations aligned with their regional economic development strategy. The funding granted by DWGs temporarily expands capacity to serve these dislocated workers by training them and increasing their employability and earnings.

Department of Interior

Abandoned Mine Land (AML) Reclamation Economic Development Pilot Program

The Pilot Program provides grants to the six Appalachian states with the highest amount of unfunded Priority 1 and Priority 2 AML problems. In FY17, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia each received \$25 million, while Alabama, Ohio, and Virginia each received \$10 million. The program is designed to spur the remediation of AML sites with economic and community development end uses, creating new economic opportunities and diversification in communities hit hard by shifts in our energy mix. The president's budget proposes eliminating this pilot program.

Department of State

Global Climate Funding

The U.S., alongside other developed nations, must help developing countries reduce their emissions, adapt to climate impacts, and save and preserve their forests. We must continue to contribute our fair share to fast-start financing and long-term funding to support REDD+, adaptation, and mitigation efforts.

Department of Agriculture

Water and Waste Disposal Loan and Grant Program

This program provides funding for clean drinking water systems, sewage disposal systems, and stormwater drainage for rural households and businesses. The president's budget slashes over \$550 million, completely eliminating the rural water and wastewater grant component of this program.