

Washington, DC -- U.S. Rep. Michael A. Arcuri (D-Utica), along with fellow Representatives from northern border states, requested yesterday that funding included in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (the Recovery Bill) be used for the Northern Border Economic Development Commission, legislation sponsored by Arcuri, and signed into law last year, to bring economic development resources to Cayuga, Herkimer, Oneida and Seneca Counties.

“The shocking recent unemployment rates for our counties underscore just how badly we need economic development funding for our region,” **Arcuri said**. “This is exactly why I introduced, and fought for, legislation to create the Northern Border Economic Development Commission. Our success in creating the Commission puts us one step closer to helping local development agencies harness the power of federal resources and communities create jobs and grow our economy. Already we have seen millions from the Recovery Bill announced for local communities, and I will continue to fight to bring even more back to Upstate New York.”

Department of Labor statistics announced today show unemployment rates in the affected counties rising in 2009 to: 8% in Oneida County; 9.2% in Herkimer County; 9% in Cayuga County; and 8.6% in Seneca County.

In a letter to Ms. Sandra Walters, Acting Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development, Arcuri and his colleagues asked that funding in the Recovery Bill, which was set aside for regional economic development commissions under the Economic Development Administration, (EDA) be specifically directed towards the Northern Border Economic Development Commission.

The Northern Border Economic Development Commission, included in legislation signed into law last year, would be charged with investing \$40 million each year in federal resources for economic development and job creation in the most economically-distressed border areas of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont and New York. In New York State, the Northern Border Economic Development Commission would directly benefit Cayuga, Herkimer, Oneida and Seneca Counties.

Projects could include transportation infrastructure, broadband development, alternative energy projects, agricultural development, health care facilities and other needs as determined by local communities.

The Recovery Bill has already directed million of federal funds to the region. Last week, Arcuri announced \$288,052 for the City of Auburn, \$320,314 for the City of Rome and \$779,615 for the City of Utica in federal funding for community, housing and economic development projects through the Recovery Bill.

The Recovery Bill contains approximately \$374 billion, nationally, for programs that directly impact New York State, of which the State is expected to receive close to \$24.6 billion. It includes funding for education, law enforcement, and infrastructure, and will provide much needed relief from rising Medicaid costs for county governments.

The Recovery Bill also delivers substantial support for infrastructure projects. New York State is expected to receive at least \$1.1 billion for highways and bridges. New York is also projected to receive \$435 million from the Clean Water State Revolving Fund and \$85 million from the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund for water and wastewater infrastructure projects.

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