

Washington, DC -- Yesterday, during a Transportation and Infrastructure Committee markup, U.S. Representative Michael A. Arcuri (D-Utica) voted in favor of much needed economic development assistance for Upstate New York and increased investment for clean water infrastructure.

“I am especially proud to have co-sponsored and voted for the Appalachian Regional Commission reauthorization bill, H.R. 799, which will give the commission the renewed authority it needs to continue to provide critical support for economic development in some of our most needy communities,” Arcuri said.

“Parts of Upstate New York have been plagued with struggling local economies for quite some time. These communities are in dire need of increasing their exposure to innovative technologies and attracting private investment – for example, in alternative energy projects – in order to spur economic activity and to improve their quality of life. The Appalachian Regional Commission provides the framework and the guidance for these communities to begin to move towards sustainable economic growth.”

H.R.799 authorizes appropriations for the Appalachian Regional Commission through fiscal year 2011 to carry out regional economic development and extends for five years the Appalachian Regional Development Act of 1965. In the last five years alone, projects funded by the Appalachian Regional Commission have resulted in 136,000 jobs kept or created.

Arcuri also voted for and co-sponsored H.R. 720, the Water Quality Financing Act of 2007, which would result in over \$100 million for New York to repair and update aging water infrastructure. H.R. 720 will provide \$20 billion in funding nation wide to capitalize Clean Water State Revolving Funds.

The Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure voted to favorably report the following measures:

- H.R. 720, Water Quality Financing Act of 2007,
- H.R. 569, Water Quality Investment Act of 2007,

- H.R. 700, Healthy Communities Water Supply Act of 2007,
- H.R. 798, to direct the Administrator of General Services to install a photovoltaic system for the headquarters building of the Department of Energy,
- H.R. 799, Appalachian Regional Development Act Amendments of 2007

Remarks Submitted by Arcuri during the Committee Mark-up:

Rep. Michael A. Arcuri (NY-24)

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Full Committee Markup

Opening Remarks

February 7, 2007

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I would like to thank Chairman Oberstar, Chairwoman Norton, and Chairwoman Johnson for their dedicated work and leadership on these very essential pieces of legislation. I am pleased to see these bills moving expeditiously through the Committee process and I hope the same goes for their future consideration on the House floor.

The Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) reauthorization bill, H.R. 799, will give the ARC the renewed authority it needs to continue to provide economic assistance to over 400 struggling counties in this country – 6 of those counties located in my District alone.

The 24th District of New York has been plagued with struggling local economies for quite some time. Population exodus, significant job losses in the manufacturing sector and slow economic development have all contributed to the downturn in economic prosperity in the region. These communities are in dire need of increasing their exposure to innovative technologies and attracting private investment – for example, in alternative energy projects – in order to spur economic activity and to improve their quality of life. The ARC helps our communities do just that. The ARC provides the framework and the guidance for these communities to begin to move towards sustainable economic growth.

I would also like to commend the Committee's effort in addressing a very concerning issue – our

Nation's aging water infrastructure. H.R. 720, the Water Quality Financing Act will provide \$20 billion in funding to capitalize Clean Water State Revolving Funds. On Tuesday, the President's FY08 budget proposal reflected a cut of \$21 million less than FY06 for New York State Clean Water revolving funds. I am relieved to know that my colleagues on this Committee understand the value of providing our disadvantaged communities with much-needed assistance to address their water treatment needs.

The Water Quality Financing Act also ensures that the contractors and subcontractors working on water treatment projects are paid the local prevailing wage. Davis-Bacon protections included in this bill will provide fair wages to workers, and ensure that water projects attract more highly-skilled workers and are completed on time. As the saying goes – do it once and do it right.

Thank you. I yield back the balance of my time.

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