**Senator Manchin Works for the Eastern Panhandle**

**Investing in the Eastern Panhandle**

Through his work on the Senate Appropriations Committee, Senator Manchin has helped direct over $30 million in federal investment in Berkeley, Morgan, and Jefferson so far in 2018. These include:

* $4.5 million for the Eastern Panhandle Transit Authority to construct a new transit operations center in Martinsburg, which will create jobs and drive economic growth in the entire region.
* $70,000 for the Eastern Panhandle Regional Planning and Development Council from the Economic Development Administration (EDA) to assist in establishing public and private partnerships to create a plan to diversify their economy, create jobs, and better their infrastructure.
* $814,380 for Martinsburg through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program and the HOME program. CDBG funds help develop sustainable communities through expanded housing and economic opportunities, while HOME grants expand the supply of decent, affordable housing by meeting local needs and priorities.

**Fighting for Clean Drinking Water**

After concerns were raised that Martinsburg’s water system was contaminated by unacceptable levels of perfluorooctanic acid (PFOA), a chemical used in foams by the West Virginia Air National Guard to fight fires, the city chose to shut down the Big Springs Water Plant to prevent the consumption of contaminated drinking water. Since that time, Senator Manchin has worked with the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), senior officials in the Pentagon, and the Office of Management and Budget to make them aware of the severe public health threats posed by these chemicals.

In January 2018, Senator Manchin sent a letter to President Trump outlining his infrastructure priorities, including addressing this critical issue facing the City of Martinsburg.

After years of work, Senator Manchin was able to secure $20 million in the FY19 defense appropriations bill for PFAS cleanup in some municipalities affected by National Guard bases which will include Martinsburg. Additionally, $10 million was awarded in this bill for a nation-wide Centers for Disease Control study and assessment on the health effects of perfluorinated chemicals in drinking water.

**Ensuring Funds for West Virginia’s Federal Government Assets**

As a member of the Senate Appropriations Homeland Security Subcommittee, Senator Manchin has helped to support the Coast Guard’s Operations Systems Center (OSC) in Kearneysville, the National Maritime Center (NMC) in Martinsburg, and the National Vessel Documentation Center (NVDC) in Falling Waters by ensuring that the U.S. Coast Guard is adequately funded and these programs are protected within its annual budget.

As a member of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, & Science, Senator Manchin oversees our nation’s law enforcement budget. In this position, he has helped to support the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF)’s National Tracing Center (NTC), located in Martinsburg, which helps enhance public safety by tracing firearms used in violent crimes and terrorism. He has also helped support ATF’s Federal Firearms Licensing Center (FFLC), also located in Martinsburg, which reviews all applications for federal firearms licenses.

Through his work on the Homeland Security Subcommittee, Senator Manchin has provided billions of dollars for the Customs & Border Patrol, including increased funds for hiring and training new agents. The agency’s Advanced Training Center is located in the Eastern Panhandle and trains an average of 8,600 border patrol agents each year, generating significant economic growth for the region.

After the U.S. Department of State announced that it would construct a new training center in Virginia, Senator Manchin called on the State Department to find alternative uses for the Summit Point Training Facility in West Virginia, which helps provide security training for U.S. diplomats, embassy staff, and their families. In the FY19 State & Foreign Operations appropriations bill, Senator Manchin secured language directing the State Department to continue these efforts to find alternative uses for Summit Point, ensuring that it remains open until another tenant is identified. He has also led efforts to bring in other federal security and intelligence agencies to replace the State Department.

**Encouraging Economic Development**

As a former small business owner, Senator Manchin understands the need for increased economic development in the state. This is why he began a series of job fairs throughout West Virginia to connect West Virginians with available job opportunities and skills – with the first of these taking place in Martinsburg. For the past several years, Senator Manchin has teamed up with local organizations such as Volunteer West Virginia, Workforce West Virginia, and other state and community partners to host several more job fairs in Martinsburg and around the Eastern Panhandle.

As Governor, Senator Manchin worked to lower taxes for businesses and residents, while also enhancing West Virginia’s business profile by fixing the state’s workers’ compensation system, improving its credit ratings and getting its financial house in order. As Senator, he remains committed to enhancing the state’s job climate so West Virginians have good paying jobs and the state remains “open for business.”

Senator Manchin and his staff have met several times with representatives from the new Proctor & Gamble and Technimark facility in Inwood, WV to discuss the company’s $500 million investment, which is projected to create 700 permanent jobs and has created upwards of 1000 temporary construction positions in Berkeley County while the plant is being built.

Earlier this month, Senator Manchin was proud to announce two awards from the US Department of Agriculture for rural economic development projects in Martinsburg. These awards gave $22,500 to the Eastern West Virginia Regional Airport and $29,796 to Innovative Community Solutions, Inc. This funding will allow for the completion of an economic impact study for the Eastern West Virginia Regional Airport to assess the economic value that the airport has on the local and regional economy of the eastern panhandle and surrounding area and will be used by Innovative Community Solutions to continue an entrepreneurship and business leadership training program in Berkeley County to serve formerly incarcerated individuals and veterans and is projected to create 22 jobs in the region.

**Responding to Disasters**

Earlier this year, Senator Manchin led a letter with other members of the West Virginia delegation to President Trump expressing his support for the Governor’s request for a federal disaster declaration for the state of West Virginia after the Eastern Panhandle experienced severe storms causing intense flooding, landslides, mudslides, and wind damage. Since the federal disaster declaration was issued on July 12th, over $40,000 has been obligated through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to support response and recovery efforts.

**Protecting our Health Care**

In August 2018, Senator Manchin led a roundtable discussion on pre-existing conditions with religious leaders, business owners, individuals of the medical community from across the Eastern Panhandle. Local residents and businesses, including representatives from Shenandoah Community Health in Martinsburg, discussed the lawsuit threatening West Virginians’ pre-existing conditions protections.

**Combatting the Opioid Crisis**

In June 2018, after visiting Day Report Centers in the Eastern Panhandle, Senator Manchin contacted the Federal Bureau of Prisons to consider using West Virginia’s Day Report Centers such as the facilities in Berkeley and Jefferson Counties as models for treating opioid addicts on a national level. DRCs serve as an alternative approach to the handling of non-violent drug offenders. Instead of serving jail time, DRC participants go through an intensive out-patient detox and rehab program. They can also serve as transitional drug rehabilitation housing in areas that do not have full-fledged recovery facilities.

In August 2018, Senator Manchin helped to secure $125,000 in funding from the Office of National Drug Control Policy’s (ONDCP) Drug-Free Communities (DFC) Support Program for the Morgan County Partnership coalition. This funding will assist the coalition coalitions in their efforts to prevent substance abuse among West Virginia’s youth.

Following this visit, Senator Manchin and Senator Sullivan of Alaska introduced S.3048, the Examining Opioid Treatment Infrastructure Act, which would commission the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to identify and map out opioid treatment centers by state and region, showing where these facilities are, and where they are not.