

Senator Manchin Works for Economic Development In West Virginia

- **March 6, 2021:** Senator Manchin voted for the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, which established a \$3 billion economic development initiative through the Economic Development Administration (EDA) within the Department of Commerce.
- **July 22, 2021:** U.S. Secretary of Commerce Gina M. Raimondo announces that EDA will implement a series of programs, collectively called Investing in America's Communities, to invest the \$3 billion it received from the American Rescue Plan Act. This includes \$300 million for the Department's "Coal Communities Commitment," which ensure coal communities have the resources to recover from the pandemic and will help create new jobs and opportunities. Secretary Raimondo also announced the \$1 billion Regional Challenge program, which is intended to provide transformational investments to develop and strengthen regional industry clusters across the country, including at least \$100 million of the program to support coal communities. Funding will range from \$25 to \$100 million to 20-30 regional coalitions to implement 3-8 projects that support an industry sector.
- **August 10, 2021:** Through Senator Manchin's bipartisan work, the Senate passed the historic Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) to bring around \$6 billion to invest in West Virginia's most urgent infrastructure needs while creating good-paying jobs and growing our economy. This included at least \$700 million for abandoned mine land reclamation and a 13-year extension for the abandoned mine lands reclamation fee. It also included additional funding to reinvigorate coal communities, including a new program to build clean energy on current and former mine lands and grants for manufacturers to build or retrofit facilities to produce or recycle energy products in communities that have seen coal mines or plants close.
- **October 29, 2021:** EDA announces that it has received 529 applications from regions from across all 50 states and 5 territories.
- **December 13, 2021:** EDA announces 60 "Phase 1" finalists – each a coalition of partnering entities – that proposed projects that will develop or scale regional industry sectors, develop and train an associated workforce, and build resilient economies. Each finalist is awarded approximately \$500,000 to further develop the proposed projects in advance of submitting a Phase 2 application. This includes two finalists from West Virginia: the ACT Now Coalition led by the Coalfields Development Corporation and the RESCUING Industries Coalition led by the West Virginia Department of Economic Development.

- **March 11, 2022:** Senator Manchin sent Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development Alejandra Y. Castillo a letter conveying his strong support for the ACT Now Coalition and their efforts to obtain funding through the EDA's Regional Challenge program.
- **June 8, 2022:** Senator Manchin calls Secretary Raimondo to advocate for both West Virginia finalists, convey his strong support for both applications, and highlight the transformative impact both of these proposals would have if selected.
- **July 27, 2022:** Senator Manchin voted for the bipartisan *CHIPS and Science Act of 2022*, where he fought to include \$69 billion for innovation at the Department of Energy while also improving the Department's ability to safeguard American patents and intellectual property and guard against nefarious research activities from our adversaries. This bill also funds a carbon materials science research center in the Appalachian region to advance research about converting coal and coal waste into valuable materials and products and spur new opportunities and industries for our hardworking coal communities.
- **August 7, 2022:** As a result of Senator Manchin's bipartisan work, the Senate passed Senator Manchin's historic *Inflation Reduction Act*, which increases American energy production and diversification to provide relief at the pump, on electricity bills, and bolster energy security. This bill invests in coal communities by expanding the bipartisan 48C investment tax credit for clean energy manufacturers, with \$4 billion reserved for use exclusively in coal communities impacted by the downturn in the coal sector, in addition to making the use of other energy tax credits more valuable if used in coal and other fossil fuel communities – attracting new investments and creating new opportunities for West Virginia's workforce. It also includes the first-ever hydrogen production tax credit, worth nearly \$8 billion over the next decade, and provide direct pay for the first 5 years of production.