

gaps in providing much needed assistance to rural communities. Of the amounts provided, \$148,050,000 is for Public Works and Economic Development, \$42,300,000 is for Economic Adjustment Assistance, \$25,380,000 is for planning, \$9,400,000 is for technical assistance, including university centers, \$14,100,000 is for trade adjustment assistance, and \$470,000 is for research.

The explanatory statement restates the concern expressed in the House report of the effect of global climate change and supports policies and strategies which contribute to sustainable “green” construction and resources conservation. EDA is directed to give favorable consideration to proposals which incorporate such technologies and strategies which would reduce energy consumption, reduce harmful gas emissions and contribute to sustainability. The Appropriations Committees recognize that the incorporation of such capabilities in a project will result in initial increased construction cost, and therefore direct EDA to establish a Global Climate Change Mitigation Incentive fund (“Fund”) of \$9,400,000 to be used to accommodate project costs associated with such mitigation efforts. As directed in the House report, EDA is directed to provide a report and spend plan within 90 days of enactment of the Act.

As stated in the Senate report, the Appropriations Committees are concerned about the disbursement of funds to EDA’s six regional offices. Within 30 days after enactment of the Act, EDA is directed to distribute all EDAP funds to the EDA regional offices.

Finally, the Appropriations Committees agree with language in the House report and encourage EDA to incorporate into its project evaluation and selection criteria greater consideration for projects that diversify the local regional economy, support the development of new regional economic drivers and emerging industry clusters, advance innovation, entrepreneurship and technology transfer, and encourage the commercialization of university-led research and development.

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

The amended bill provides \$30,832,000 for salaries and expenses at EDA, instead of \$32,800,000 as proposed by both the House and the Senate.

As stated in the Senate report, the Appropriations Committees are supportive of EDA’s six regional offices. The funding level provided should be adequate to begin filling vacancies within the regional offices. EDA is directed to fill vacancies within the regional offices prior to any vacancies within headquarters.

MINORITY BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

MINORITY BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

The amended bill provides \$28,623,000 for the Minority Business Development Agency, instead of \$31,225,000 as proposed by the House and \$30,200,000 as proposed by the Senate.

Within the amount provided, \$235,000 is for the preservation and revitalization of the Moore Street Market in Williamsburg, Brooklyn, New York.