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March 22, 2018

Dear Senator Casey:

On behalf of the Greater Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce (GPCC) – the advocacy affiliate of the Allegheny Conference on Community Development, I write to respectfully request your support for the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2018 (H.R. 1625). This bill contains robust funding for a number of GPCC priorities, including for transit and infrastructure, federal research & development, and energy & water policy.

Additionally, as votes begin on H.R. 1625, I ask that you advance the following priorities that are important to Southwestern Pennsylvania:

- **Capital Investment Grants (CIG):** \$2,645 billion for the CIG Grant program. Additionally, language that directs the administration to continue to administer the program as Congress intended. Our region's transit priorities rely on a strong CIG program.
- **TIGER Grants:** \$1.5 billion appropriated for the TIGER program. Our nation is in need of a drastic infusion of infrastructure investment, and before we move forward with new programs, we must ensure existing funding streams are secure, including the TIGER program.
- **Federal Research & Development:** In the Pittsburgh region, universities fuel an innovation engine that conducts over \$1 billion in research annually, paving the way for commercialization. In H.R. 1625, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) receives a \$3 billion, 8.3% increase to \$37 billion. The National Science Foundation (NSF) receives \$7.8 billion, a 3.9%, \$295 million increase. The agency's research account would grow by about 5%, to \$6.3 billion. Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of Science would receive \$6.26 billion, an \$868 million increase.
- **NETL & Fossil Energy R &D:** \$728.8 million for Fossil Energy (FE) Research & Development. This is an increase of \$393.6 million over the President's request and \$96.8M over the FY-17 enacted. This research is critical for our region's and nation's energy future and much of it occurs in the Pittsburgh region.

- **Appalachian Ethane Storage Hub:** Within the FE Research & Development line item, there is strong support for Ethane Storage in the Tri-state region. DOE is directed to identify the federal agencies with jurisdictional oversight of establishing an ethane storage and distribution hub in central Appalachia and to coordinate to streamline the permitting application and approval process.

Given the positive effects that H.R. 1625 will have on our region, I respectfully request your support. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to me or Brandon Mendoza on my staff.

Sincerely,



Matt Smith

President, Greater Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce