



*Creating Communities of  
Innovation*

**ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY RESEARCH PARKS**

Representative Paul Ryan  
Speaker of the House  
United States House of Representatives  
Room H-305, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Nancy Pelosi  
Minority Leader  
United States House of Representatives  
Room H-204, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Senator Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Room S-221, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Chuck Schumer  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
Room S-230,  
The Capitol Room S-221,  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Ryan, Leader Pelosi, Leader McConnell and Leader Schumer:

On behalf of the Association of University Research Parks (AURP), we write to express our strong opposition to the draconian budget cuts being proposed for the US Economic Development Administration (EDA). Through planning grants and loan assistance, the EDA has been a mainstay for both rural and urban communities in the US launching or expanding research parks. The EDA's funding is highly leveraged with private sector funding, and has proven to be a successful public/private partnership model that many competing countries with the US have emulated.

Research parks were founded in the United States, and they represent the principal areas of our country's innovation infrastructure. At a time when many communities are looking for ways to leverage local research assets, improve manufacturing, and make the country more globally competitive, the EDA's seminal role in supporting communities of innovation is critical.

**AURP**

6262 North Swan Road • Suite 125 • Tucson, AZ 85718 • (520) 529-2521 • Fax: (520) 529-2499 • [www.aurp.net](http://www.aurp.net)



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We urge the Congress to reject the more than \$100M EDA cut proposed by the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice and Science. This proposed funding reduction to EDA is disproportionate and will stifle economic growth in the US. We will be urging our more than 300 members across the United States to meet with their state Congressional delegations to reject this reduction.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely yours,

Mason Ailstock  
President, AURP

Carol Stewart  
CEO, AURP

Cc: The Honorable Rodney P. Frelinghuysen, Chairman, House Appropriations Committee  
The Honorable Nita M. Lowey, Ranking Member, House Appropriations Committee  
The Honorable John Culberson, Chairman, House Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce  
Justice, Science and Related Agencies  
The Honorable Jose Serrano, Ranking Member, House Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce,  
Justice, Science and Related Agencies

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Thad Cochran  
Chairman, Senate Appropriations Committee  
Committee on Appropriations  
S-128, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

Patrick Leahy  
Vice Chairman, Senate Appropriations Committee  
Committee on Appropriations  
S-128, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Cochran and Vice Chairman Leahy:

On behalf of the Association of University Research Parks (AURP), we write to express our strong support for the US Economic Development Administration (EDA). Through planning grants and loan assistance, the EDA has been a mainstay for both rural and urban communities in the US launching or expanding research parks. The EDA's funding is highly leveraged with private sector funding, and has proven to be a successful public/private partnership model that many competing countries with the US have emulated.

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