



*A publication of the RSC Sunset Caucus from co-chairs Kevin Brady (R-TX) and Jason Chaffetz (R-UT)
Rep. Jim Jordan (R-OH), RSC Chairman*

Eliminate the Appalachian Regional Commission

July 18, 2012

Program or Item Targeted: Funding for the Appalachian Regional Commission.

Cost of Program or Item: This legislation could save taxpayers \$75.3 million annually.

Background on Program or Item to Be Sunseted: In 1965 the Congress passed the Appalachian Regional Development Act which created the Appalachian Regional Commission. This commission consists of a partnership between the federal government and thirteen different states intended to advance “sustainable community and economic development” in the region. This commission funds projects in these regions endeavor to increase job opportunities, strengthen the economy of Appalachia, and make improvements to the infrastructure and highways system of the region.

Why This Item Is Wasteful: There are dozens of other federal, state, and local programs intended to improve economic and infrastructural conditions, and this duplicative spending for the same purposes in a specific region is unfair and unnecessary. We cannot afford yet another ill-advised inefficient and top-down attempt at economic engineering for specific regions when the entire country is incurring an enormous debt. For this reason, the RSC [Spending Reduction Act](#) of 2011 proposed eliminating this commission entirely.

As Thomas Schatz, President of Citizens Against Government Waste, pointed out, “the Appalachian Regional Commission...was billed as help for an impoverished region. During the past three decades, this bureaucracy you’ve probably never heard of has spent \$6.2 billion, yet the region remains impoverished. Where did the money go? Two-thirds was spent building 26 highways connecting well-to-do urban centers. The money went to construction workers whose wages are definitely above-average. Despite revolutionary talk in Washington, the Appalachian Regional Commission goes on and on.”

MEMBER ACTION ITEM: RSC Members may wish to introduce stand-alone legislation to eliminate the Appalachian Regional Commission. For more information or if you would like to introduce this legislation, please contact Rick Eberstadt at Rick.Eberstadt@mail.house.gov.

If you would like to participate in eliminating wasteful programs with the RSC Sunset Caucus, please e-mail Rick.Eberstadt@mail.house.gov.

Note: Not every item featured in the Waste Action Alerts is necessarily endorsed by the RSC. These Alerts highlight the individual initiatives of members of the RSC Sunset Caucus.

*“The RSC Sunset Caucus uncovers government waste and seeks to eliminate it,
working to sunset programs that taxpayers shouldn’t be paying for.”*

