



Buckeye Hills-Hocking Valley Regional Development District 2012 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

State and Federal

The Buckeye Hills-Hocking Valley Regional Development District serves as a voluntary organization of local government political subdivisions in eight Southeastern Ohio counties to foster cooperative efforts in regional planning, and the implementing of regional plans and programs. It also operates the Area Agency on Aging 8.

The members of Buckeye Hills support state and federal policies and programs that encourage regional strategies, partnerships and solutions to improve the quality of life in its communities.

For 2012, the members of Buckeye Hills place a high priority on:

- **Economic and Community Development** - Continued support for economic and community development programs and supports such as EDA, CDBG and ARC.
 - Fully fund the **Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC)** including support for local development districts (LDDs) both at the federal and state funding levels.
 - Reauthorize the **Economic Development Administration (EDA)** with funding for planning.
- **Rural Development** - Expansion of resources, flexibility and innovation within **USDA Rural development**. Fully fund USDA rural development grant programs for infrastructure improvements, business development, community facilities, housing and broadband services.
- **Transportation** - Enhanced roles for rural local elected officials and regional development districts in establishing **Rural Transportation Planning Organizations (RTPOS)** in Ohio. Support for federal **Appalachian Development Highway System (ADHS)** funding being spent in Appalachian Ohio.
- **Aging Services** - Continued support for Ohio's network of **Area Agencies on Aging**. AAAs are the best organizations for managing in-home and community services based on the 30-year track record, the state is guaranteed to save money; consumers like and trust their AAA; and, they adapt to meet local needs and leverage local resources.
- Support for continued funding for the popular **USDA Senior Farmer's Market Nutrition** Program.

Rural & Appalachian Policy Support

In Washington DC: Urge members of the U.S. House to participate in the **Congressional Rural Caucus**, a bipartisan group dedicated to supporting federal policies that improve the economic competitiveness of small town America.

In Ohio: Urge members of the Ohio Senate and House of Representatives to actively participate in the **Ohio Appalachian Task Force(ATF)**. ATF is a broad-based, proactive, voluntary coalition of local government, business, service agency, education, health and other public and private interests throughout Ohio's 32 Appalachian counties.



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