

111TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4666

To amend the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 to establish a grant program to support cluster-based economic development efforts.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 23, 2010

Mr. OWENS (for himself, Mr. WELCH, and Mr. MCINTYRE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To amend the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 to establish a grant program to support cluster-based economic development efforts.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Cluster-Based Econ-
5 omy Enhancement Act of 2010”.

1 **SEC. 2. GRANTS FOR CLUSTER-BASED ECONOMIC DEVEL-**
 2 **OPMENT.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title II of the Public Works and
 4 Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3141 et
 5 seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

6 **“SEC. 219. GRANTS FOR CLUSTER-BASED ECONOMIC DE-**
 7 **VELOPMENT.**

8 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the following
 9 definitions apply:

10 “(1) CLUSTER.—The term ‘cluster’ means a ge-
 11 ographic concentration of business entities that—

12 “(A) are competing, complementary, or
 13 interdependent firms and industries;

14 “(B) do business with one another; and

15 “(C) have common needs for talent, tech-
 16 nology, and infrastructure.

17 “(2) ELIGIBLE APPLICANT.—The term ‘eligible
 18 applicant’ means—

19 “(A) a State or local government;

20 “(B) an institution of higher education; or

21 “(C) a nonprofit economic development or-
 22 ganization.

23 “(3) REGION.—The term ‘region’ means any of
 24 the following regions, if on the date of submission of
 25 an application for a grant under this section the re-

1 gion meets one or more of the criteria described in
2 section 301(a):

3 “(A) The Delta Region, as described in
4 section 382A(2) of the Consolidated Farm and
5 Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2009aa(2)).

6 “(B) The Northern Great Plains Region,
7 as described in section 383A(4) of the Consoli-
8 dated Farm and Rural Development Act (7
9 U.S.C. 2009bb(4)).

10 “(C) The Southeast Crescent Region, as
11 described in section 15731 of title 40, United
12 States Code.

13 “(D) The Southwest Border Region, as de-
14 scribed in section 15732 of title 40, United
15 States Code.

16 “(E) The Northern Border Region, as de-
17 scribed in section 15733 of title 40, United
18 States Code.

19 “(F) The Appalachian Region, as de-
20 scribed in section 14102 of title 40, United
21 States Code.

22 “(G) Such other region as the Secretary
23 determines appropriate.

24 “(b) BLOCK GRANTS.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—On the application of an el-
2 igible applicant, the Secretary may make a block
3 grant to the applicant—

4 “(A) to assess the potential for the devel-
5 opment of clusters and the enhancement of ex-
6 isting clusters in a region;

7 “(B) to establish cluster development pro-
8 grams in a region; and

9 “(C) to promote cluster development pro-
10 grams in a region and support the staff who op-
11 erate such programs.

12 “(2) USE OF GRANTS.—A recipient of grant
13 funds under this subsection may use the funds to
14 provide assistance for startup costs, worker training,
15 relocation costs, planning, and other projects identi-
16 fied by the recipient that are consistent with the
17 purposes of this section.

18 “(c) COST SHARING.—

19 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Federal share of the
20 cost of a project carried out using funds made avail-
21 able under this section shall be 50 percent.

22 “(2) IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS.—Not more than
23 50 percent of the non-Federal share of the cost of
24 a project carried out using funds made available

1 under this section may be provided through in-kind
2 contributions.

3 “(3) INAPPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN SECTION.—
4 Section 204 shall not apply to this section.

5 “(d) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—

6 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall submit
7 to Congress reports on the results of the program
8 established under this section.

9 “(2) FREQUENCY OF REPORTS.—The Secretary
10 shall submit a report under this subsection annually
11 for the first 4 years of the program and biennially
12 thereafter.

13 “(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
14 is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
15 \$50,000,000. Such sums shall remain available until ex-
16 pended.”.

17 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of con-
18 tents contained in section 1(b) of the Public Works and
19 Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3121
20 note) is amended by inserting after the item relating to
21 section 218 the following:

“Sec. 219. Grants for cluster-based economic development.”.

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