



APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION
 1666 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, N.W., WASHINGTON, D. C. 20235

**press
message**

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Amy J. Hardy
 News & Public Affairs
 (202) 673-7869

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Three Governors representing the thirteen Appalachian States appeared today before the Congress to express their strong support for the Appalachian Regional Commission Program and to request additional funds for the ARC FY 1978 appropriations. Governors Marvin Mandel of Maryland, Julian Carroll of Kentucky, and Cliff Finch of Mississippi, in testimony before the Senate and House Appropriations Committees, called for an additional \$84.6 million to be added to this year's budget. The additional money would include \$29.6 million for non-highway programs and \$55 million for the ARC Development Highway System. The Governors stressed that the first priority should be for an increase in the non-highway portion.

- Alabama
- Georgia
- Kentucky
- Maryland
- Mississippi
- New York
- North Carolina
- Ohio
- Pennsylvania
- South Carolina
- Tennessee
- Virginia
- West Virginia

Governor Marvin Mandel, ARC's States' Cochairman, began the testimony by stating that "the Region with the help of ARC has shown tremendous improvement. Every dollar spent by ARC has gone far to provide for the long enduring prosperity of the people of the Appalachian Region." Governor Mandel also cited the importance of the Region in the development of an energy policy for the Nation and said that "the new role of the Region's abundant natural resources, and especially coal, will create new opportunities for the Region."

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Governor Julian Carroll of Kentucky, also stressing the importance of the Region in the development of a National Energy Program, emphasized the strong relationship between the development of an energy program and the existence and operation of the ARC. He said that "the future would demand that the Nation double its coal production and that a substantial amount of this coal must come from Appalachia. This will create the need for additional housing, health services, schools, community facilities and means of transportation. No agency in the Nation is more equipped to handle these problems than the ARC. The structure already established within the ARC is uniquely capable of dealing not only with the central problem of energy development, but also the multiplicity of associated community service problems it will create."

Although much of the testimony centered on the funding for non-highway programs, Governor Cliff Finch reiterated the need to complete the Appalachian Development Highway System. He said that the Highway System "had proven to be the backbone of Appalachian Mississippi and had aided the area in overcoming the isolation that had previously existed and helped to link it to the rest of the Nation." He also cited statistics which indicate that the highway system is attracting business and industry into Appalachia.

Former Congressman Joe Evins of Tennessee, representing Governor Ray Blanton, praised the ARC by saying that "the ARC structure brings the Federal and State Governments together in the finest example of a partnership I have seen in the Nation. The impact of ARC has been great; it has been wholesome. The funds spent by the Commission in the coming years will affect the quality of life of the people of the Region for decades."

He further commented on the present energy crisis by stating that the Region's abundant coal reserves will be an important factor in confronting the Nation's need because "not only are the coal reserves abundant but they are also near the major consumers of the Nation. ARC is an effective way of utilizing these resources into the development of a National Energy Program."

Senator Stennis of Mississippi, Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, closed the testimony by saying that "ARC is a splendid example of State and Federal Government cooperation."