



COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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GOVERNOR

February 2, 2015

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The Honorable Nikki R. Haley
Governor of South Carolina
State House
Columbia, South Carolina 29211

Dear Governor Haley:

I am writing in my capacity as the 2015 States' Co-Chairman of the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) to encourage your active participation at the upcoming Commission meeting during the National Governors Association Winter Meeting. The 2015 ARC meeting is scheduled from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Sunday, February 22, at the JW Marriott Hotel, 1331 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC.

Once a year, the Commission is required by its authorizing legislation to hold a quorum meeting of member Governors. The purpose of the meeting is to make a distribution of appropriations as well as to conduct other business so that the Commission can continue its important work, including funding projects during the next fiscal year.

In its governing structure, ARC has been ahead of its time, giving the Governors of the thirteen Appalachian States an equal role with the federal government in determining ARC's policies and spending decisions. Accordingly, at the quorum meeting, we will discuss current FY2015 appropriations and the President's proposed increase in ARC's FY2016 budget, results of a recent comprehensive review of the Commission's work and cumulative impact across the Appalachian region, and the implications of this review's findings for our continuing work to address the region's challenges and opportunities and for updates to the ARC's Strategic Plan.

A quorum of seven Governors is required by statute for us to conduct this important business, but we need all the member Governors to bring their views to the table. I recognize how busy your schedule is during the NGA conference, but I strongly urge you to attend this meeting. Attendance by Governors in recent years has been important both for the effective conduct of business and for demonstrating to Congress and the public our member Governors' commitment to this unique partnership.

For further information on the meeting, please contact States' Washington Representative, Jim McCleskey, at 202-884-7742 or jmccleskey@appstates.org. I look forward to seeing you on February 22nd.

Sincerely,

Steven L. Beshear

