

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Michaud Amendment Passes; Saves Economic Development Administration from Massive Cuts

WASHINGTON, DC – Today, the House of Representatives voted to pass an amendment offered by Congressman Mike Michaud that saves the nation’s economic development infrastructure from historic cuts put forward by Republican leaders in the Fiscal Year 2011 Continuing Resolution (CR). The amendment, which passed today by a bipartisan vote of 305-127, restores \$80 million in cuts to the Economic Development Administration (EDA). Michaud’s amendment is fully paid for by reducing funding for a periodic Census programs account, which is funded at over \$900 million. The amendment results in a 9% cut in funding for the Census account, but a 45% increase in EDA funding. Michaud spoke late last night on the House floor in support of his amendment.

“We must cut spending to get our fiscal house in order. But at a time when our states, local communities and businesses continue to struggle, it’s the wrong time to be cutting programs that are proven job creators. Budgets are about priorities, and we must insist that our investments are focused on job creation,” said Michaud.

By law, EDA projects require a 50 percent local cost share, significant private sector investment and must result in the creation and retention of jobs. From 2004 to 2008, EDA funded projects directly led to the creation of approximately 200,000 jobs nationwide. In Maine, EDA investments have created 2,539 jobs and retained 962 since 2006.

In addition to his efforts to maintain level funding for EDA, Michaud is waging a bipartisan effort to convince his colleagues to retain the funding level currently in the CR for the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) Program, which is the only public-private program dedicated to providing technical support and services to small and medium sized manufacturers. Over the last five years in Maine, companies surveyed reported that as a result of their relationship with the Maine MEP they have:

- Created 670 jobs that otherwise would not have existed
- Retained 2,075 jobs that otherwise would not have existed
- Increased and retained \$347.4 million in sales
- Spent \$68.3 million on new investment
- Experienced \$39.5 million in cost savings