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3-11-1971

## Floor Statement on the Appalachian Regional Development Act

Edmund S. Muskie

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### Recommended Citation

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STATEMENT BY  
SENATOR EDMUND S. MUSKIE  
ON  
THE APPALACHIAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT ACT

*March 11, 1971*

**MR. MUSKIE.**

Mr. President, I support with enthusiasm the pending legislation, S 575, to extend the Appalachian Regional Development Act. And I want to commend Senators Randolph, Montoya, and Cooper, of the Public Works Committee, for their efforts and leadership in strengthening and extending this legislation.

The Appalachian Regional Commission, established in 1965, was a landmark experiment in regional development.

Today, five years later, the Commission has not solved all the problems set before it. Yet it has made significant strides toward improving the economic outlook of the Appalachian states.

The successes of the Appalachian Regional Commission are evidence that regional cooperation in administering categorical grants can have a substantial impact on economic development.

Its failures are witness only to the enormity of the difficulties in stimulating economic growth.

We know that the time has come for the formulation of growth policies which transcend state and local political boundaries and look beyond isolated economic problems of a single locale - policies which are broad

in scope and oriented toward the realities of regional economic independence.

The Appalachian program is a model of such an approach. I hope that we will put to good use the lessons learned from this experiment and strengthen other regional efforts at economic development.

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