

Committee of Jurisdiction: Environment, Energy & Land Use (EELU)

Title of Resolution: Reducing local match requirements for federal environmental restoration projects.

Issue: Federal environmental restoration grant programs generally require 50% matching funds from the applicant agency. Federal transportation grant programs more often require a 20% match from the local agency partner. Reducing match requirements for environmental restoration projects to 20% would bring these programs into alignment with transportation programs and enable local agency partners to put more and larger projects on the ground more quickly.

Proposed Policy: NACo encourages the Executive Branch to reduce match requirements for federal environmental restoration programs from 50% to 20%.

Background: Federal grant programs such as the US Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry Program require a 50% match from the local agency partner. Federal transportation grants programs more often require just a 20% match. Reducing the local agency match requirement will reduce the cost burden of local governments and nonprofit applicants, which will support equitable distribution of federal dollars to low-income communities and allow more and larger environmental restoration projects to take place more quickly.

Fiscal/Urban/Rural Impact: Reduces the cost burden of the nonfederal local partner to participating in federal landscape-scale restoration and improvement projects and puts these important projects within reach for low-income urban and rural communities.

Sponsor:

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