



**MEDIA ADVISORY**

September 7, 2021

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**NRGRDA Hosts ARC Federal Co-Chair Gayle Manchin Sept. 8**

**Focusing on Outdoor Recreation Opportunities and New National Park**

**Beckley, W.Va. (Sept. 7, 2021)** – Leaders of the New River Gorge Regional Development Authority and its West Virginia Hive Network are hosting Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) Federal Co-Chair Gayle Manchin from 10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 8, at several locations in Raleigh County.

“The Appalachian Regional Commission’s leadership and POWER grant program are instrumental in the development and execution of life-changing community and economic development projects in the New River Gorge region,” said Jina Belcher, executive director of the NRGRDA. “We are honored to welcome home Gayle Manchin, a proud Beckley native, to see the significant initiatives we have under way to create jobs, offer new services, and improve the quality of life here.”

Representatives of the media are welcome at all locations. Please let us know if you have any special needs.

**Schedule of Events**

**10:30 – 11:15 a.m. Welcome and WV Hive Office and Business Hub Tour**

WV Hive Network  
205 S. Kanawha Street  
Beckley, WV 25801  
Parking – Behind Building

**11:15 – 11:45 a.m. Visit to Future Fruits of Labor Location**

Former Zen's Building, Future Fruits of Labor  
313 Neville Street  
Beckley, WV 25801  
Parking -- Parallel parking lot

**12:00 – 1:00 p.m. Black Knight Working Lunch – Representatives of the City of Beckley**

Beckley's Historic Black Knight  
2400 S. Kanawha Street  
Beckley, WV 25801  
Parking – On Site

**1:15 – 2:00 p.m. Raleigh County Memorial Airport Tour/Overview of Expansion**

Raleigh County Memorial Airport  
176 Airport Circle  
Beaver, WV 25813  
Parking -- On Site

**Spokespersons available for interviews include:**

- Gayle Manchin, ARC Federal Co-Chair
- Beckley Mayor Rob Rappold, Chairman of NRGRDA
- Jina Belcher, NRGRDA Executive Director
- Judy Moore, WV Hive Executive Director
- Tom Cochran, Raleigh County Memorial Airport Manager

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**About New River Gorge Regional Development Authority:** The New River Gorge Regional Development Authority's (NRGRDA) mission is to initiate, facilitate and support the economic and community development efforts within the counties of Fayette, Nicholas, Raleigh, and

Summers located in this region of southern West Virginia. NRGRDA stimulates the regional economy through business expansion and retention efforts, including an extensive portfolio of financial services; the management of sites for new companies locating to our region; and serving as a point of access for local service providers which offer a variety of technical assistance for business owners. <https://nrgrda.org/>

The WV Hive is the entrepreneurship program of the NRGRDA and the administrator of the Country Roads Angel Network. More information about the WV Hive can be found at <https://wvhive.com/>.