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CHILDREN, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

COMMENORATION OF THE PASSAGE OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

WHEREAS, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was signed into law on July 26, 1990, “to provide a clear and comprehensive national mandate for the elimination of discrimination against individuals with disabilities”; and

WHEREAS, the ADA protects the rights of individuals with disabilities to work, access the benefits of state and local government programs, use transportation services, utilize telecommunications and access public accommodations and commercial facilities; and

WHEREAS, July 26, 2010, marks the 20th anniversary of the passage of the ADA; and

WHEREAS, the ADA has in many instances achieved this goal, by providing millions of people with disabilities greater access to all aspects of community life but recognizing that more work needs to be done to ensure the ADA fulfills its stated purposes; and

WHEREAS, Title II of the ADA requires local governments to ensure that people with disabilities have equal access to the benefits and services provided by their programs; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors commemorates the 20th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 by affirming its commitment to its goals of equality and inclusion; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges its members to examine the progress made by their respective municipalities in meeting the goals of the ADA; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges its members to renew their commitment to the ADA by establishing ambitious goals to improve access to their programs and services for people with disabilities over the next decade; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in recognition of the fact that state and local governments’ increasingly rely on the internet and other forms of information technology to provide information, programs and services to the public, the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges its members to pay special attention to ensuring that the information and services provided via the internet or other types of information technology is accessible to people with disabilities.
BUILDING A NATIONAL COMPREHENSIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

WHEREAS, all of the basic elements that are important for comprehensive youth development educational attainment, after school enrichment, summer and other work experience opportunities, career exploration, mentoring, health services, juvenile justice initiatives, etc. – are typically addressed independently of one another by existing governmental and not-for-profit programs; and

WHEREAS, youth programs and funding are spread out through numerous federal agencies – including Health and Human Services, Education, and Labor – resulting in difficulty coordinating important services; and

WHEREAS, for example, in youth workforce development these gaps have hindered the ability to combine resources and the development of common approaches and standards for eligibility, quality programming, and expectations for succeeding in the workplace; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that America must recognize the need for a comprehensive youth development strategy as a major step forward by our nation to remain productive and competitive and to promote economic and social mobility; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a comprehensive national youth development strategy must encompass the integrated delivery of the full range of fundamental components and the variety of skills and supports described above, including establishment of a Federal Youth Development Council and passage of legislation like the Federal Youth Coordination Act of 2009, which would create the White House Office on National Youth Policy.
WHEREAS, the Congress is preparing to reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act; and

WHEREAS, before-school, afterschool and summer learning programs provide critical supports to students and their families and contribute to educating the whole child; and

WHEREAS, communities like ours rely on 21st Century Community Learning Center Program (21st CCLC) as an essential source of afterschool program funding that leverages a wide array of funding—local, state and private as well as partners, including faith-based organizations, nonprofits, businesses, educational organizations and volunteers; and

WHEREAS, as mayors working in cities all over the nation, we understand how critical this program is to providing support for more than 1 million children in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. A wealth of research and data demonstrates that these programs help children academically, socially and behaviorally; and

WHEREAS, despite the demand for and success of afterschool programs, on any given day more than 15 million children are unsupervised afterschool and more than 18 million would be in programs if they were available and affordable. Now is the time to expand access for more of our most at-risk students, not divert much needed afterschool funding to create new programs that will result in even more children home alone; and

WHEREAS, during the hours of 3 PM to 6 PM when children are most at risk for juvenile crime and experimentation with drugs, alcohol, cigarettes and sex, afterschool programs have a proven record of keeping children safe; and

WHEREAS, working families also reap the benefits from afterschool programs; parents who are concerned about their children being unattended after the school day ends miss an average of eight days of work per year. Decreased worker productivity related to parental concerns about afterschool care costs businesses up to $300 billion per year; and

THEREFORE NOW BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors thanks the Congress for its continued strong, bipartisan support for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U. S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to protect and expand afterschool funding and oppose any cuts to this much needed program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that rather than divert existing 21st Century Community Learning Center funding to other uses, ESEA should provide separate and enhanced funding streams for:

- The 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program;
- Full Service Community Schools; and
- Expanding the school day or year.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that current law should be maintained which provides funds for the 21st CCLC program by formula to the states and District of Columbia, with each State Education Agency (SEA) running a competitive grant program in which local education agencies (LEA), community-based organizations or faith-based organizations can be the lead entity. All grant applications should require school/community partnerships and a strong alignment between the community-based organization and the school; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that flexibility for the 21st CCLC program be maintained to allow local communities to determine whether the programming occurs at school, at non-school community-based facilities or a combination of locations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to ensure that the many lessons learned by the afterschool community over the past decade help inform school reform; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress and the Administration to look at afterschool partners when designing school reform models. After school programs are able to tap into the best of the community – colleges, museums, scientists, artists, musicians, volunteers, libraries and youth development workers – to teach our children the critical workforce skills and connect their passions to learning.
DESIGNATION OF SEPTEMBER AS NATIONAL CHILD AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, National Child Awareness Month will promote the awareness of children’s charities and youth-serving organizations throughout the United States, and will recognize their critical contributions to the future of our Nation; and

WHEREAS, raising awareness of and increasing support for organizations that provide access to healthcare, social services, education, the arts, sports, and other services will result in the development of character and the future success of the children and youth of our Nation; and

WHEREAS, September is a time for the people of the United States to highlight and be mindful of the needs of children and youth; and

WHEREAS, private corporations and businesses have joined with hundreds of national and local charitable organizations throughout the United States in support of a monthlong focus on children and youth; and

WHEREAS, the United States House of Representatives and United States Senate designated September 2009 as National Child Awareness Month and are expected to again designate September 2010 as National Child Awareness Month;

WHEREAS, the designation of September as National Child Awareness Month by The United States Conference of Mayors would recognize that a long-term commitment to children and youth is in the public interest, and will encourage widespread support for charities and organizations that seek to provide a better future for the children and youth of the United States; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED we, The United States Conference of Mayors, recognize the efforts of Festival of Children Foundation and resolve to designate the month of September as National Child Awareness Month.
DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER AS NATIONAL CHILDHOOD OBESITY AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, during the past four decades, obesity rates have soared among all age groups, increasing more than fourfold among children ages 6 to 11; and

WHEREAS, 31.8 percent or 23,000,000 children and teenagers ages 2 to 19 are obese or overweight, a statistic that health and medical experts consider an epidemic; and

WHEREAS, significant disparities exist among the obesity rates of children based on race and poverty; and

WHEREAS, the financial implications of childhood obesity pose a tremendous financial threat to our economy and health care system, carrying up to $14,000,000,000 per year in direct health care cost, with people in the United States spending about 9 percent of their total medical costs on obesity-related illnesses; and

WHEREAS, obese young people have an 80 percent chance of being obese adults and are more likely than children of normal weight to become overweight or obese adults, and therefore more at risk for associated adult health problems, including heart disease, type 2 diabetes, sleep apnea, stroke, several types of cancer, and osteoarthritis; and

WHEREAS, in part due to the childhood obesity epidemic, 1 in 3 children (and nearly 1 in 2 minority children) born in the year 2000 will develop type 2 diabetes at some point in their lifetime if current trends continue; and

WHEREAS, some consequences of childhood and adolescent obesity are psychosocial and obese children and adolescents are targets of early and systematic social discrimination, leading to low self-esteem which, in turn, can hinder academic and social functioning and persist into adulthood; and

WHEREAS, participating in physical activity is important for children and teens as it may have beneficial effects not only on body weight, but also on blood pressure and bone strength; and

WHEREAS, proper nutrition is important for children before birth and through their life-span as nutrition has beneficial effects for health and body weight, and is key in the prevention of various chronic diseases; and

WHEREAS, childhood obesity is preventable yet does not appear to be declining; and

WHEREAS, public, community-based, and private sector organizations and individuals throughout the United States, including First Lady Michelle Obama, are working to decrease childhood obesity rates for people in the United States of all races through a range of efforts, including educational presentations, media campaigns, websites, policies, healthier food options, and greater opportunities for physical activity; and
WHEREAS, Mayors across this nation have championed cause of childhood obesity prevention by raising awareness and implementing local programs and policies to address the issue of childhood obesity; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the United States Conference of Mayors - supports the designation of National Childhood Obesity Awareness Month to raise public awareness and mobilize the country to address childhood obesity; recognizes the importance of preventing childhood obesity and decreasing its prevalence in the United States; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the United States Conference of Mayors calls on Congress and the Administration to designate September 2010 and every September henceforth, National Childhood Obesity Awareness Month.
SUPPORT FOR THE TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES EMERGENCY CONTINGENCY FUND (TANF-ECF)

WHEREAS, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) created a new Emergency Contingency Fund under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program to enable states and cities to respond to increased demands for assistance; and

WHEREAS, the $5 billion allocated over two years may be drawn down by states and localities for cash assistance; non-recurrent assistance such paying a utility bill and/or subsidized employment; and

WHEREAS, in most states, the program was not implemented until late 2009, due to federal delays in crafting guidance for the new program and subsequent clarifications to state and local governments requesting further information on activities eligible for the 80 percent federal funding and what sources of local, in-kind matches could be used under the program; and

WHEREAS, without further congressional action, TANF-ECF will expire on September 30, 2010; and

WHEREAS, in its federal fiscal year 2011 budget, the Obama Administration proposed a new, $2.5 billion program to extend TANF-ECF for an additional year, through September 30, 2011; and

WHEREAS, House Ways and Means Income Security and Family Support Subcommittee Chairman Jim McDermott (D-WA) introduced H.R. 4564, a bill similar to the administration’s budget proposal; and

WHEREAS, the House adopted a bill (H.R. 4849) which contains a new $2.5 billion appropriation for TANF-ECF in FY 2011 with any remaining funds from the old ARRA TANF-ECF program returning to the U.S. Treasury; and

WHEREAS, a projected 120,000 jobs are projected to be created with the funds by September 30, 2010; and

WHEREAS, work skills and relationships developed by individuals in TANF-ECF jobs help build the foundation for permanent employment; and

WHEREAS, state and local governments need federal assurances soon that the program will continue in FY 2011 so that their private sector and non-profit partners employing TANF-ECF participants may plan accordingly; and

WHEREAS, given the need to get families back to work, state budget timelines and historic city and state fiscal stress, it is critical that the federal government act now to extend the TANF-ECF program to ensure that these supports may continue after September 30, 2010; and
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the U.S. Conference of Mayors supports and calls for the immediate enactment of $2.5 billion in new funding through September 30, 2011 for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Emergency Contingency Fund; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to enact an additional legislative provision to rollover into FY 201.
ENDING CHILDHOOD OBESITY WITHIN A GENERATION

WHEREAS, the childhood obesity epidemic in America is a national crisis; and

WHEREAS, one in every three children (31.7%) ages 2 – 19 is overweight or obese; and

WHEREAS, obesity is estimated to cause 112,000 deaths per year in the United States and one third of all children born in the year 2000 are expected to develop diabetes during their lifetime; and

WHEREAS, childhood obesity imposes substantial economic costs. Each year, obese adults incur an estimated $1,429 more in medical expenses than their normal-weight peers and childhood obesity is estimated to cost $3 billion per year in direct medical costs; and

WHEREAS, the life-threatening consequences of this epidemic create a compelling and critical call to action that can’t be ignored; and

WHEREAS, President Obama established a White House Task Force on Childhood Obesity in February 2010 and the Task Force has completed its action plan; and

WHEREAS, First Lady Michelle Obama has launched her “Let’s Move” Campaign which focuses on 1) empowering parents and caregivers; 2) providing healthy food in schools; 3) improving access to healthy affordable foods; and 4) increasing physical activity; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors applauds the President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama for their commitment to solve the problem of childhood obesity in a generation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Mayors to adopt and implement the recommendations of the White House Task Force on Childhood Obesity including:

- Creating a healthy start on life for our children, from pregnancy through early childhood;
- Empowering parents and caregivers to make health choices for their families;
- Serving healthier food in schools;
- Ensuring access to healthy, affordable food; and
- Increasing opportunities for physical activity.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Mayors to raise awareness of the racial and ethnic, socioeconomic and regional disparities which impact the high rates obesity across populations and work to address those disparities in their cities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors and the nation’s Mayors stand ready to work in partnership with the President and First Lady to begin implementing the recommendations of the White House Taskforce on Childhood Obesity and will work to engage public and private leaders in this effort.
WHEREAS, veterans have played a crucial role in creating and protecting the freedoms that all Americans enjoy; and

WHEREAS, all honorably discharged veterans should have a proper burial and not be interred in a “potter’s field”; and

WHEREAS, every honorably discharged veteran is eligible for interment in a national veteran’s cemetery; and

WHEREAS, federal law establishes guidelines by which the Veterans Administration ("VA") will pay burial expenses, including transportation, for deceased veterans who die as a result of a disability incurred or aggravated in line of duty or in a VA facility regardless of the cause of death; and

WHEREAS, the VA’s burial transportation expense does not apply to honorably discharged indigent veterans without next-of-kin who die as result on a non-service related illness or who die outside of a VA facility; and

WHEREAS, to ensure that all honorably discharged veterans receive the proper burial they are entitled to, municipalities pay the expense of transporting honorably discharged indigent veterans without next-of-kin who die as result on a non-service related illness or who die outside of a VA hospital facility to the nearest national veteran’s cemetery; and

WHEREAS, most cities do not have a national veterans’ cemetery within their city limits; and

WHEREAS, many national veteran’s cemeteries are sometimes hundreds of miles away or only in neighboring states; and

WHEREAS, most cities are not allowed to incur expenses for transportation of the deceased outside of city limits; and

WHEREAS, the Veterans Administration should bare the expense of transporting honorably discharged indigent veterans without next-of-kin who die as result on a non-service related illness or who die outside of a VA hospital facility to the nearest national veteran’s cemetery; and

WHEREAS, the federal government has a responsibility in to make certain that every honorably discharged veteran receives a proper burial in a national veteran’s cemetery; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors calls for the Veterans Administration to provide for burial transportation to a national veteran’s cemetery for honorably discharged indigent veterans without next-of-kin who die as result on a non-service related illness or who die outside of a VA hospital facility.
VOLUNTEER GENERATION FUND

WHEREAS volunteers and nonprofit organizations are crucial partners for cities in providing much-needed social services, particularly during this economic downturn; and

WHEREAS, today, tens of millions of Americans volunteer to tackle our most urgent needs and millions more are prepared to fill gaps in our nation’s social safety net; and

WHEREAS recent studies have shown that the very institutions whose role it would be to deploy the time and talents of these volunteers lack the capacity to use a new surge of volunteers effectively; and

WHEREAS, the annual cost for a nonprofit to screen, train and manage one volunteer per year is $300 and most nonprofits must put volunteer management in the back seat to core functions, resulting in those willing to serve having fewer valuable opportunities and basic services going undelivered; and

WHEREAS, we have seen the need for volunteer infrastructure in times of crisis such as Hurricane Katrina when thousands of unaffiliated volunteers flooded the Gulf region and had to be screened, trained, housed, fed and deployed; and

WHEREAS, a modest federal investment in a strong volunteer management infrastructure to build the capacity for nonprofits to recruit, train, target and retain volunteers would support the social service delivery systems in cities, large and small; and

WHEREAS, the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act of 2009 included such an investment vehicle - the Volunteer Generation Fund – for grants to entities that 1) are dedicated to the practice of connecting volunteers to meaningful, diverse opportunities and 2) have a track record of practical, actionable engagement strategies across sectors; and

WHEREAS, the Fund, administered by the Corporation for National and Community Service, awards grants to state service commissions and nonprofit organizations that either directly carry out volunteer programs or develop and support community-based entities that recruit, manage or support volunteers; and

WHEREAS, the Fund was authorized for $50 million in FY2010 and Congress appropriated only $4 million; and

WHEREAS, the President has requested $10 million for the Volunteer Generation Fund for FY2011; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors calls upon Congress to provide $10 million for the Volunteer Generation Fund in FY2011; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Congress should ensure both nonprofit organizations and state service commissions are eligible to apply for funding, as specified in the original Serve America Act.
WELLNESS IN REAL ESTATE

WHEREAS, improving the health and wellness of residents of the United States is a top priority of elected leaders on local, state and federal levels; and

WHEREAS, the healthcare system spends an estimated $2.5 trillion dollars (16% of GDP) annually; and

WHEREAS, the healthcare system is primarily focused on curing illness and illness maintenance, as opposed to preventing illness and increasing wellness; and

WHEREAS, Without a shift to more prevention-based health care measures, the cost of American health care is estimated to grow to $4 trillion in 2015, from $2.3 trillion today; and

WHEREAS, with increased rates of obesity and other preventable chronic diseases, including diseases related to poor nutrition, indoor air quality, cardiovascular health, and exercise, a child born today is at risk for having a shorter life expectancy than their parents for the first time in history; and

WHEREAS, people around the country are rapidly trying to respond to these growing health concerns by practicing different forms of preventative medicine, making the wellness industry one of the fastest–growing industries in the United States; and

WHEREAS, significant advancements have been made to greatly improve health and wellness through science-driven solutions within the indoor living, working and school environments; and

WHEREAS, the US Conference of Mayors has been a leader in promoting green and healthy living through the Mayors Climate Change Center and the Mayors Healthy Cities Campaign; and

WHEREAS, the US Green Building Council created the LEED standard to create a uniform framework for building green buildings; and

WHEREAS, the cities of Portland and Tucson are exploring the next generation of sustainable building, WELLNESS REAL ESTATE, an evidence-based approach by Delos Living to prevent the onset of disease and improve individual health through daily interactions with healthy living features in the built environment, and applied to all classes of real estate: homes, offices, schools and hotels; and

WHEREAS, Wellness Real Estate marries building architecture and engineering with innovations and research in preventive medicine, including: cardiovascular and respiratory health, sleep health, orthopedic care, weight and metabolism management, stress and mood management, cognition and memory enhancement, health literacy and health behavior motivation; and

WHEREAS, by integrating green building standards, Wellness Real Estate provides a sustainability strategy that is holistic: concretely addressing both environmental concerns as well as each individual’s physical and emotional health and wellbeing; and
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the US Conference of Mayors encourages: Mayors to create comprehensive policies and programs to encourage wellness and healthy lifestyles through education and community outreach efforts, and Mayors as the chief executive officials to consider key wellness factors when developing real estate, schools and public buildings.
PROVIDING PERMANENT HEALTH MONITORING, TREATMENT AND COMPENSATION FOR PEOPLE WHO RESPONDED TO OR SURVIVED THE 2001 TERRORIST ATTACKS ON AMERICA

WHEREAS, the United States of America was attacked by international terrorists on September 11, 2001 killing nearly 3,000 people from all over the world and injuring 6,000 others; and

WHEREAS, more than 91,000 Americans from all over the nation selflessly responded to this attack at the World Trade Center; the Pentagon; and a field near Shanksville, Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, more than 410,000 people were the most heavily exposed to the collapse of the World Trade Center, the biggest urban environmental disaster in U.S. history, which took 9 months to clean up; and

WHEREAS, Americans who were exposed to the 2001 terrorist attacks now live in all 50 states; and

WHEREAS, independent researchers and the World Trade Center (WTC) Health Registry have established that WTC exposure has increased the risk for a variety of chronic and debilitating physical and mental health conditions; and

WHEREAS, researchers have published their findings in dozens of peer-reviewed scientific publications including the New England Journal of Medicine and the Journal of the American Medical Association; and

WHEREAS, many long term health effects potentially related to WTC exposure, including cancer, may not be clearly evident for at least a decade after 9/11; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Congress has established temporary programs to monitor and treat Americans who were exposed to the WTC disaster; and

WHEREAS, more than 57,000 Americans from all over the nation are currently being monitored for physical and mental health problems related to their WTC exposure with funding from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH); and

WHEREAS, more than 15,000 Americans from all over the nation were treated in 2009 for physical and mental health problems related to their WTC exposure with NIOSH funding; and

WHEREAS, New York City is willing to continue paying its fair share of the cost of this funding; and

WHEREAS, the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund established by the U.S. Congress resolved more than 7,300 claims for death and injury in a fair and equitable manner; and

WHEREAS, the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund closed in 2003 before many chronic and debilitating illnesses related to WTC exposure had become evident; and
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to pass legislation that would permanently fund a monitoring and treatment program for Americans who can prove they were exposed to the WTC disaster; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to pass legislation that would permanently fund WTC-related health research to ensure appropriate use of federal funds for monitoring and treating WTC-exposed Americans; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to pass legislation that would re-open the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund to justly compensate the families of Americans who have died or suffered health-related financial losses as a result of the September 2001 terrorist attacks.
WHEREAS, mayors are familiar with the consequences of drug use, including the relationships affected, the crimes generated, the childhoods interrupted, and the neighborhoods blighted; and

WHEREAS, according to the 2008 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, an estimated 20.1 million Americans aged 12 or older (eight percent of the population) were current illicit drug users, meaning they have used an illicit drug during the month prior to the survey interview; and

WHEREAS, more than 7.6 million people have a diagnosable drug use disorder; and

WHEREAS, drug use places a major strain on our economy, accounting for significant expenditures every year in health care costs; and

WHEREAS, drug use is a preventable and treatable condition; and

WHEREAS, injection drug use is implicated in one-third of AIDS cases in the United States according to the National Institute of Drug Abuse; and

WHEREAS, prescription drug abuse is a rapidly growing substance abuse issue which requires adequate prevention messaging; and

WHEREAS, drug-induced deaths now outnumber gunshot deaths in America and are fast approaching motor vehicle crashes as the leading cause of injury death; and

WHEREAS, the Obama Administration recognizes the importance of a balanced strategy of prevention, treatment, and law enforcement in order to decrease drug use and its consequences; and

WHEREAS, the President's $15.5 billion Fiscal Year 2011 National Drug Control Budget calls for an increase of $521.1 million over the FY 2010 enacted level, and includes a 6.5 percent increase for prevention and treatment; an increase of $73.8 million for Federal interdiction efforts; and an increase of $20.1 million for international support; and

WHEREAS, $1.7 billion has been requested in the President’s FY 2011 Budget to support a variety of education and outreach programs aimed at preventing the initiation of drug use, a 13.4 percent increase over the FY 2010 enacted level; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors already has adopted policy resolutions calling upon the federal government to take a public health approach to substance abuse issues and has raised the importance of addressing the gap between the number of people who have a diagnosed substance abuse problem and the availability of treatment; and

WHEREAS, the National Drug Control Strategy reflects a national consultation process through which the Director of National Drug Control Policy consulted with mayors, health care professionals, law enforcement officials and other local community leaders to identify the best approaches to drug control to include in the National Strategy; and
WHEREAS, as a result of that extensive consultation process, President Obama’s National Drug Control Strategy reflects a new approach to drug policy, adopting a science-based approach to prevention and treatment, innovations in law enforcement and the wise use of criminal justice resources; and

WHEREAS, President Obama’s National Drug Control Strategy acknowledges that drug problems are most effectively handled at the local community level and the Drug Control Strategy emphasizes the importance of local, community based efforts to prevent drug use; and

WHEREAS, the National Drug Control Strategy highlights the importance of local efforts to disrupt drug markets and integrate treatment into basic health care in order to stop drug abuse problems from becoming chronic; and

WHEREAS, the policies outlined in the National Drug Control Strategy, when implemented, should reduce public spending while improving public safety,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors endorses the new approach to drug control reflected in the National Drug Control Strategy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Conference of Mayors applauds the strategy’s call for:
- strengthening prevention in local communities;
- endorsing the importance of integrating substance abuse treatment into mainstream healthcare;
- expanding support for recovery;
- addressing the cycle of drug use, crime, delinquency and incarceration; and
- seeking to disrupt domestic drug trafficking and production while strengthening international partnerships.
ACCESSIBILITY FOR PERSONS WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS

WHEREAS, Autism is the most common of the Pervasive Developmental Disorders; autism spectrum disorders affect an estimated 1 in 110 births (Centers for Disease Control Prevention, 2010), and as many as 2.2 million Americans today are believed to have some form of autism; and

WHEREAS, based on statistics from the U.S. Department of Education and other governmental agencies, autism is growing at a rate of 10-17 percent per year, at this rate, some estimates suggest that the prevalence of autism could reach 4 million Americans in the next decade; and

WHEREAS, autism spectrum disorder covers a group of disorders that have common difficulties in communication, social skills, and repetitive or unusual behavior. Autism spectrum disorders may include persons with cognitive disabilities but many people with autism spectrum disorders have normal or above average intellectual functioning; and

WHEREAS, an advocacy and informational effort called Advancing Futures for Adults with Autism (AFAA), includes a national townhall meeting uniting 15 cities and over 1,000 voices through live satellite interaction and comprehensive strategic planning to advance a national plan to serve adults with autism spectrum disorders; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors recognizes that persons with autism spectrum disorders are valued members of society, with the right to access to services, programs and functions;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Conference is committed to work with all appropriate organizations to increase access and engagement for individuals with autism spectrum disorders through comprehensive training and support initiatives; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that such accessibility supports and services will include but not be limited to autism specific accessibility training and support for transportation systems including airports, trains and buses; cultural and educational facilities such as libraries and museums and other public-sector resources; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Conference urges the corporate and business community to join with it in supporting increased access and engagement for individuals with autism spectrum disorders through comprehensive training and support initiatives.
WHEREAS, the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan are in their seventh and eighth years respectively, and nearly two million American troops have served in either conflict, thousands of whom have been deployed multiple times; and

WHEREAS, the men and women of the armed services have made sacrifices to preserve the freedom of the American people and we have an obligation to care for them; and

WHEREAS, according to a 2008 report by the RAND corporation, nearly one-third of current conflict veterans will report symptoms of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), major depression, or other cognitive disorder or disability; and

WHEREAS, these psychological wounds of war, if left untreated, often contribute to substance abuse and addiction, fatal overdose, homelessness, suicide; and violations of the law, especially nonviolent drug offenses; and

WHEREAS, in 2004, the United States Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics reported that 140,000 veterans were incarcerated in state and federal prisons, with tens of thousands more in county jails; and

WHEREAS, experts believe the number of incarcerated veterans will dramatically increase as more service men and women return from Iraq and Afghanistan; and

WHEREAS, research shows that the single greatest predictive factor for the incarceration of veterans is substance abuse; and

WHEREAS, veterans incarcerated for drug offenses received average sentences that were one year longer than those of non-veterans incarcerated for the same offenses; and

WHEREAS, The United States Conference of Mayors adopted a resolution at its 75th Annual Meeting declaring the war on drugs a failure and calling for a public health approach to drug problems, which includes community-based treatment instead of incarceration for nonviolent drug offenders; overdose prevention policies, and greatly increased access to medication-assisted therapies like methadone and buprenorphine; and

WHEREAS, diverting veterans from jail and prison through the training of first responders and through the implementation of veterans diversion programs can help returning veterans struggling with substance abuse and mental health conditions; and

WHEREAS, The United States Conference of Mayors adopted a resolution at its 77th Annual Meeting calling for the implementation of strategies to prevent homelessness among returning veterans, including local efforts to divert veterans into treatment instead of arresting and jailing them, and outreach and reentry services for veterans being discharged from correctional facilities; and
WHEREAS, many communities are beginning to adopt these strategies, including Buffalo, New York; Orange, Santa Clara, and San Bernardino counties, California; Tulsa, Oklahoma; Anchorage, Alaska; Chicago, Illinois; King County, Washington; Madison, Wisconsin; Phoenix, Arizona; Minneapolis, Minnesota; Rochester, New York; and Allegheny County, Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, California and Minnesota have passed laws providing that veterans who suffer from PTSD, substance abuse, or psychological problems as a result of their service and who commit certain nonviolent offenses may be diverted to treatment instead of jail or prison; and

WHEREAS, these positive first steps must be improved and expanded; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) recently adopted a policy prohibiting VA physicians from recommending medical marijuana to their patients, even in jurisdictions that have legalized marijuana for medical use, and even when marijuana is the safest and most effective medicine to treat PTSD and other service-related conditions; and

WHEREAS, patient reports and published research indicate that medical marijuana can be a highly effective treatment for PTSD, and overwhelming scientific evidence has already proven marijuana’s safety and efficacy for treating conditions like chronic pain, which affects many combat-injured veterans; and

WHEREAS, medical marijuana carries none of the risks associated with prescription drugs used to treat PTSD, which have been implicated in the tragic overdose deaths of several current conflict veterans; and

WHEREAS, PTSD is the leading medical condition qualifying for the medical use of marijuana in the State of New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, veterans should not be deprived of the same rights as nonveteran patients in the jurisdictions that permit medical marijuana use; and

WHEREAS, research and news reports suggest that veterans are at high risk of overdose given the widespread use of prescription medications, especially opioid analgesics for relief of pain from combat injuries and antidepressants for mental health treatments; and

WHEREAS, military surveys have found prescription opioid medications to be the most widely misused class of drug among members of the armed forces; and in May it was reported that the number of U.S. Army soldiers enrolling in treatment for opiate addiction rose 500 percent between 2004 and 2009; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Defense’s TRICARE insurance system explicitly prohibits coverage of methadone and buprenorphine treatment for active duty personnel or for veterans in the process of transitioning from DoD care, and as a result, active and recently active military personnel are denied effective treatment for opioid dependence, often at a critical, early juncture when full-blown addiction could still be avoided; and
WHEREAS, The United States Conference of Mayors adopted a resolution at its 76th Annual Meeting urging cities to take actions to prevent overdose fatalities, such as the distribution of Naloxone—an opioid antagonist medication that reverses the respiratory failure that commonly causes death from opioid overdose—directly to lay people; and the adoption of medical amnesty laws for witnesses of a drug overdose, such as the State of New Mexico adopted in 2007; and

WHEREAS, The United States Conference of Mayors adopted a resolution at its 77th Annual Meeting advocating greatly expanded access to addiction treatment, including alternatives to incarceration, specially tailored treatment, recovery support to veterans returning from active duty—particularly veterans who are suffering from or are at high risk for PTSD and/or alcohol and other drug problems,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United Conference of Mayors urge immediate policy changes to improve the health, reduce the likelihood of accidental death, and preserve the freedom of those who have served in our armed forces; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the United States Conference of Mayors urge state and federal governments to modify sentencing statutes and improve court-ordered drug diversion programs to better treat—rather than criminalize and incarcerate—veterans who commit nonviolent drug-related crimes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that such diversion programs allow veterans to access treatment without first pleading guilty; expand their treatment options and quality; embrace medication-assisted therapies like methadone and buprenorphine; prohibit jail sanctions, which would likely exacerbate veterans’ mental and physical injuries or illnesses; and empower treatment professionals to make treatment decisions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors direct and train local law enforcement agencies to divert veterans to appropriate VA care instead of booking and arresting them, when such a disposition is in the interest of the veteran and public safety; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urge the VA to allow physicians to make recommendations related in medical marijuana to their veteran-patients in jurisdictions where marijuana is legal for medical use; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urge the VA and Department of Defense (DoD) to immediately adopt overdose prevention programs and policies targeting veterans and service members who misuse alcohol and other drugs, or who take prescription medications, especially opioid analgesics, and that such policies include improved patient screening, monitoring, supervision, and education, and physician training; and the prescription of Naloxone to all veterans who are taking opioid pain medications; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urge states—and even military bases—to follow the lead of New Mexico and enact laws that provide legal amnesty to persons who report an overdose to emergency medical services; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the VA increase access to methadone, buprenorphine and other medication-assisted therapies among opioid-dependent veterans; and the DoD eliminate restrictions preventing TRICARE from covering buprenorphine and methadone for active military, veterans, and their families.
SUPPORTING SPORTS-BASED YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AS CATALYST FOR SOCIAL CHANGE

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors recognizes that childhood obesity, youth crime, and academic performance are significant challenges to the healthy development of America’s youth throughout this nation’s cities and towns; and

WHEREAS, research has shown that:
- 33% of the nation’s children are overweight or obese by the 3rd grade, with higher numbers in low income areas; and
- more than 750,000 children throughout the country are in gangs; and
- the public school dropout rate is now 30%, and approaches 50% in many inner-city communities; and

WHEREAS, the structured activity and leadership of organized youth sports programs have been shown to be strong contributors to the healthy physical, social and academic development of our nation's children; and

WHEREAS, kids who play sports are more likely to stay active as adults and less likely to suffer from obesity and related chronic health conditions; and

WHEREAS, youth sports programs can potentially employ tens and thousands of adults, including returning veterans, as coaches in schools, community centers, and community-based organizations; and

WHEREAS, schools across America were forced to cut more than $2 billion of funding for youth sports programs in 2009 and resort to practices like pay-to-play which affect participation rates especially among the poor; and

WHEREAS, youth in urban, minority communities are proportionately affected by the lack of organized sports;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors recognizes that sports-based youth development programs provide quality empowerment opportunities to help children and communities build and sustain healthy and safe cities, and adopts as its policy the pursuit of access for all American youth to quality sports programs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors calls for federal, state and local levels of government to support their cities and districts in investing in sports-based youth development by:

- Supporting strategies that expand the scope and capacity of sports-based youth development programs in cities so that
- every child has access to a sports program that promotes their physical, academic and social wellness;
• Supporting efforts that provide resources and training to existing sports programs in cities with the purpose of increasing their effectiveness on reducing childhood obesity, youth crime and school dropout rates;

• Supporting efforts to promote volunteerism in youth sports including the expansion of Coach Across America, that provides AmeriCorps members to serve as coaches in disadvantaged neighborhoods in cities;

• Recognizing the annual Coach Appreciation Week in September through local initiatives and activities that highlight the heroic volunteerism of sports coaches in promoting the wellbeing of our youth;

• Promoting community engagement in service learning projects that renovate recreational spaces for youth during key service learning days and throughout the year; and

• Encouraging collaboration between government agencies, non-profits and local business communities to promote joint use of resources, to attract funding, and to foster more research and evaluation that promotes quality in youth sports programming.
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING COMMITTEE

REAFFIRMING POLICY IN SUPPORT OF THE CDBG AND HOME PROGRAMS

WHEREAS, the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program now in its 36th year is one of the nation’s most effective domestic programs, especially with respect to the flexibility it gives to local elected officials and practitioners to fashion tailored responses to their unique neighborhood revitalization, economic development and affordable housing needs;

WHEREAS, the Administration’s FY11 budget proposes $3.99 billion in Community Development Block Grants, the same amount appropriated for FY2010;

WHEREAS, the FY2010 level was approximately $350 million over the FY2009 level of $3.64 billion, the FY2011 funding level falls far short of what is needed to restore the cuts to the program in the mid 2000s;

WHEREAS, the problems which CDBG funds address have not lessened, but have only grown more acute over time;

WHEREAS, throughout its 20-year history the HOME Investment Partnerships Program has had an enviable track record in producing affordable housing units;

WHEREAS, the HOME program has been a complement to the CDBG program in expanding the supply of affordable ownership and targeted rental housing for lower income American’s;

WHEREAS, through June 30, 2009 HOME funds have resulted in the completion of over 912,000 units: nearly 24% of the units are new construction, 42% are rehabilitation and 34% are acquisition;

WHEREAS, of the completed rental units, 83% are benefitting households with incomes from 0-50% of median income, with an additional 14% benefitting those from 50% - 80% of median income;

WHEREAS, this targeting is much deeper than that required under the HOME statute;

WHEREAS, every HOME dollar committed to a project leverages $3.75 in non-HOME funds;

WHEREAS, the Administration’s proposed FY2011 budget recommends that funding for HOME be reduced by $150 million to $1.65 billion;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Conference of Mayors urges Congress to provide no less than $4.2 billion in CDBG formula funds in FY2011;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Conference of Mayors urges Congress to provided $2 billion in HOME formula grants for FY2011.
WHEREAS, Congress has chartered government-sponsored enterprises (GSE) in the housing sector and charged them with a mission to provide liquidity, affordability and stability to the U.S. housing and mortgage markets; and

WHEREAS, housing GSEs primary function is to enhance the flow of credit to the housing sector by purchasing and securitizing mortgages in order to ensure that funds are consistently available to institutions that lend money to home buyers; and

WHEREAS, housing GSEs hold mortgage portfolios approaching $4 trillion in 2009, originated roughly 75% of all home loans in the first three quarters of 2009, and underpin the whole U.S. mortgage market; and

WHEREAS, foreclosure filings were reported on more than 2.8 million properties in 2009, up 21 percent from 2008 and 120 percent from 2007; and
WHEREAS, a new record of homeowners are now delinquent on their home mortgage in the U.S. – more than 10% - with many of those delinquencies ending up in the foreclosure process in 2010; and

WHEREAS, it is difficult for cities to determine the GSEs participation in loans made in communities as they do not appear on the property title and it is difficult to determine the number of GSE loans in default in a community through the search of public records; and

WHEREAS, the dramatic depreciation in home prices and increasing foreclosures add to the already large inventory of vacant homes in U.S. neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, occupancy of property is the best asset management tool, preventing further deterioration of the housing stock and compromising neighborhoods; and
WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors recognizes the paramount role that housing GSEs play in the recovery of the housing market, prevention of vacant property in communities and the security of neighborhoods in U.S. cities; and

BE IT RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors is committed to work with the Federal Government to enact legislative changes for improved oversight of housing GSE practices, policies and operations; while still ensuring community lending, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors calls for the GSEs to promote a primary policy of programs that ensure occupying foreclosed property as it is in the best interest of the GSEs, our residents and our cities, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on housing GSEs to comply with all local housing laws governing vacant property including building ordinances, and vacant property registration, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors calls for housing GSEs to work in collaboration with local governments on local housing issues - such as security, property
management of vacant buildings - to ensure GSE held assets are not problem buildings in neighborhoods, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors calls for housing GSEs to work to responsibly dispose of property, avoiding strategies like auctions or sales to investors that only perpetuates problems with troubled properties and not alleviate them, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that housing GSEs be required to make zip code-level data that specifically outlines GSE-owned mortgages as well as locations of any defaults and/or foreclosure starts transparent to cities quarterly, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that housing GSEs must see swift and immediate demolition of condemned or highly distressed vacant property as a viable disposition strategy, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that housing GSEs must be more transparent in their investment and disposition strategies.
REAUTHORIZING AND SUPPORTING THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION (EDA)

WHEREAS, America’s success has been based on the hard work, technology and innovations that have lead to such products and inventions such as electricity, the airplane, and the Internet;

WHEREAS, throughout our country’s history economic development activities ranging from infrastructure improvements to investments in innovation and technology have created jobs and helped make American regions more competitive;

WHEREAS, a free and democratic society provides the freedom of thoughts and expression that are essential in the exchange of innovative ideas;

WHEREAS, a strong educational system must include a focus on science, technology and mathematics to provide the structural foundation for future high-wage, high-skilled, and sustainable jobs;

WHEREAS, innovation and entrepreneurship lead to the creation of small business which account for nearly 50% of the United States’ GNP and nearly 50% of total employment; Whereas, investments in green jobs, next-generation infrastructure, and education are putting people back to work and creating a cycle of investment, innovation and job creation for tomorrow;

WHEREAS, tools such as business and technology incubators are able to provide necessary resources that can help create innovation and develop entrepreneurial organizations;

WHEREAS, public private partnerships are integral in spurring and promoting innovation, entrepreneurship;

WHEREAS, collaborative innovation networks can speed the development of ideas, inventions, and innovation through the use of knowledge sharing;

WHEREAS, to maintain America’s economic competitiveness, government policies must promote and support innovation, entrepreneurship, business development, and intellectual property protections;

WHEREAS, the U.S. Economic Development Association is working region by region to help speed the transition to a more entrepreneurial, innovation-driven society by fostering regional innovation that builds on an area’s competitive advantages, encourages business exports and competitiveness, and leverages private investment.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the United States Conference of Mayors urges Congress to adopt policies and procedures that support scientific and technological innovation, product invention, entrepreneurship, and the growth of American small businesses.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that USCM supports the reauthorization of the Economic Development Administration so that it may continue to fulfill its mission to prepare America’s regions for growth and success in the worldwide economy.
NEIGHBORHOOD STABILIZATION PROGRAM FUNDING AND OPERATIONAL IMPROVEMENTS

WHEREAS, the Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008 established the $4 billion Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) to provide federal formula grants directly to states and certain local governments to help stabilize communities; and

WHEREAS, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act provided $2 billion in additional NSP funding, but altered the grant allocation methodology to force local governments to compete for funding with national and consortium non-profit groups; and

WHEREAS, the principal objective of NSP is to stabilize communities hardest hit by the national foreclosure crisis, and local governments are most directly responsible for taking action on foreclosed homes and addressing the impacts of vacant properties and blight within their own jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, there is an ongoing need for NSP funding to assist local governments with implementation of foreclosure response programs, and to ensure sufficient flexibility for the purchase and redevelopment of foreclosed and abandoned single-family and multi-family residential properties, to establish land banks, to demolish blighted structures where appropriate, and to redevelop demolished or vacant properties; and

WHEREAS, the Neighborhood Stabilization Program can be further improved by changes such as:

- providing additional flexibility to meet low-income set-aside and tenant protection requirements;
- allowing for expanded use of financing mechanisms to help low- and moderate-income homebuyers;
- applying environmental review procedures in a more streamlined manner and consistent with both the HOME and Community Development Block Grant programs;
- ensuring NSP purchasers are equally competitive with for-profit investors by temporarily modifying how appraisals and environmental review contingencies are used;
- broadening cost recovery measures;
- explicitly defining that a developer also includes local housing finance authorities.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors supports additional formula-based grants directly to local governments for a third round of Neighborhood Stabilization Program funding; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to enact legislative and administrative improvements to the Neighborhood Stabilization Program as identified by local practitioners through implementation efforts, in order to maximize impacts.
FEDERAL HOME LOAN BANK SYSTEM’S IMPORTANCE AS A RESOURCE FOR AMERICA’S CITIES

WHEREAS, Federal Home Loan Banks (FHLBanks) are 12 regional government sponsored enterprises (GSEs) chartered by Congress in 1932 to provide liquidity to their financial institution members and ensure the availability of funding for affordable housing and community development; and

WHEREAS, FHLBanks have over 8,000 member financial institutions including thrifts, commercial banks, insurance companies and federally insured credit unions serving every city in the United States; and

WHEREAS, FHLBanks are authorized to serve the needs of America’s cities by providing to their members low-cost financing for community development lending; and

WHEREAS, FHLBanks, through their Affordable Housing Program (AHP), have helped provide shelter and stabilize neighborhoods by providing over $3.6 billion in grants for affordable housing projects since 1990; and

WHEREAS, FHLBanks, through their members assist cities and their authorities to lower funding costs by credit enhancing taxable and tax-exempt bonds through use of their highly-rated Letters of Credit (LOC); and

WHEREAS, Statutory authority in Section 149(b) of the Internal Revenue Code permitting the use of FHLBank LOCs on non-housing tax-exempt bonds sunsets on December 31, 2010.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the United States Conference of Mayors formally congratulates the FHLBanks and recognizes the 20 year anniversary of the FHLBank’s AHP.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Congress should pass legislation making permanent the authority under Section 149(b) of the Internal Revenue Code, thereby permitting FHLBanks to provide LOCs, through their members on tax exempt bonds; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Congress, as they debate the future of the nation’s housing finance system and housing GSEs, should not negatively impact the FHLBanks’ ability to serve the liquidity needs of their members, provide affordable housing funds through the AHP or serve the needs of cities through their investment authority and community development lending; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the United States Conference of Mayors support legislation, regulatory changes and other initiatives designed to expand the FHLBanks’ ability to work through their members to serve the housing, community and economic development needs of cities through their investment authority, introduction of new business and activities, and development of new initiatives and products.
SUPPORTING THE FEDERAL STRATEGIC PLAN TO PREVENT AND END HOMELESSNESS

WHEREAS, mayors are committed to preventing and ending homelessness in our nation's cities; and

WHEREAS, no one should experience homelessness and no one should be without a safe, stable place to call home; and

WHEREAS, mayors and cities are on the front lines of the response to homelessness and more than 300 local governments have created jurisdictionally-based 10-Year Plans to end chronic and other types of homelessness, many of which are showing results; and

WHEREAS, leadership at all levels is needed to inspire and energize Americans to commit to the vision of preventing and ending homelessness among families with children, youth, Veterans, and individuals; and

WHEREAS, more affordable housing is needed for individuals and families who are at risk of losing their housing; rapid re-housing is an innovative and effective approach to move families quickly out of homelessness and into permanent housing; more quality permanent supportive housing is needed for people who require permanent supportive housing to prevent or end their homelessness; and

WHEREAS, these supportive strategies improve the quality of life for both the individuals being housed and the community at large; and

WHEREAS, ending homelessness requires collaboration and coordination at all levels of government, together with philanthropy, businesses, and faith-based and community organizations, to determine how best to implement prevention and intervention strategies; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors strongly supports an increased investment in proven strategies that end homelessness, with a strong focus on affordable housing, rapid re-housing, and permanent housing with supportive services; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors affirms the value of the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness and commends its initiatives to support mayors as they work to end homelessness in their cities.
WHEREAS, there are 78 million baby boomers of whom 10 million will be entering retirement over the next 5 years; and

WHEREAS, retiring baby boomers have significantly underestimated the cost of retirement or how they might finance it; and

WHEREAS, retirees have been caught in the middle of the recent market downturn, rising healthcare costs, and falling house values; and

WHEREAS, one-third of all American households do not have any form of retirement savings beyond Social Security; and

WHEREAS, poverty rates among all American households have increased from 12.5 percent to 13.2 percent in 2008 and it is expected to continue rising in the coming years; and

WHEREAS, lower- and middle-income households are the least prepared and will be impacted dramatically as they realize that their Social Security will not cover their expenses; and

WHEREAS, many baby boomers plan to continue working beyond retirement, however unexpected downsizing, personal illness, disability or having to care for a loved one has not been factored into their plan; and

WHEREAS, some retirees planned to sell their home for cheaper living arrangements, however of those starting to retire, 7% were actually able to re-locate, and

WHEREAS, a trend towards greater individual responsibility for retirement security will continue as employer and government balance sheets are challenged; and

WHEREAS, baby boomers are increasingly anxious about their retirement security but are uncertain about how to solve their problems and will need help; and

WHEREAS, those individuals who are least prepared will look increasingly at local, state and federal government for resources to help during their retirement years; and

WHEREAS, having a financial plan can mitigate the risks of not being prepared for retirement, but fewer than one-third of baby boomers 55 and older have a plan; and

WHEREAS, Oakland, California has hosted two financial planning clinics in which free financial planning advice was provided by financial professionals who were not allowed to market or promote their businesses or product; and

WHEREAS, the financial planning clinic hosted by Oakland provided a safe “sales free” environment where low-income individuals benefited from the expertise of financial
professionals whose sole objective was to provide one-to-one personalized financial information for a full day, and

WHEREAS, by preventing financial services companies from marketing or “branding” the event and through a partnership with the Oakland Mayor, participants were more trusting of the information and less suspicious of the motives behind the effort; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the United States Conference of Mayors urges Congress to adopt a budget resolution to support the creation of financial planning clinics to be held once a year during Financial Planning Month (October) in various cities across America. This investment would enable local and state government to promote pro-bono financial planning services without having to rely on or be beholden to financial services companies.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the USCM’s DollarWISE Campaign commit to working with nationally recognized non-profit financial planning organizations as partners to draw upon the population of financial planners to host pro-bono financial planning clinics throughout the United States during Financial Planning Month (October).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the USCM support and commit to not allowing financial companies or planning professionals to actively market or promote their particular business, products, or services before, during, or after such clinics.
SUPPORT FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN CITIES

WHEREAS, over half of today’s global population lives in an urban setting – a number expected to increase over 70% by 2050; and

WHEREAS, this rapid urbanization has placed severe stress on the environment and human health through increased waste, pollution and greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, cities sit at the intersection of law, policy, economic development, land use decisions, and the public interest and can be a guide to the federal government and other entities of how to address these challenges and encourage sustainable development; and

WHEREAS, many cities are already at the forefront of developing and implementing cutting-edge strategies to inspire a bottom-up approach to a low-carbon future through the adoption of climate action plans, the implementation of green building codes and standards, the revision of an existing municipal plan, or the use of policies based on LEED for Neighborhood Development; and

WHEREAS, cities and other local governments will soon be able to rate how sustainable they are in terms of economic, social, and environmental sustainability with the STAR Community Index and be able to use the Index as a planning tool to ensure that they continue to move towards being a sustainable community; and

WHEREAS, the federal government has shown increased support for sustainable communities through the Sustainable Communities Partnership, a collaboration between the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Department of Transportation, and the Environmental Protection Agency.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the U.S. Conference of Mayors acting on behalf of its constituents to call on the Congress of the United States to Adopt the Livable Communities Act, the Enhancing Livability for All Americans Act, or similar legislation and support full funding for the Sustainable Communities Partnership in the President’s Budget.
HUD, DOT AND EPA PARTNERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, U.S. Department of Transportation, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency have joined together to form the Partnership for Sustainable Communities; and

WHEREAS, this partnership represents an unprecedented agreement to coordinate federal housing, transportation, and environmental investments; protect public health and the environment; promote equitable development; and help address the challenges of climate change; and

WHEREAS, as a key element of the partnership the three agencies are working together to coordinate federal policies, programs, and resources to help local governments build more sustainable communities and remove policy or other barriers that prevent sustainability; and

WHEREAS, this partnership is based on six Livability Principles including:
- Provide more transportation choices;
- Promote equitable, affordable housing;
- Increase economic competitiveness;
- Support existing communities;
- Leverage federal investment;
- Value communities and neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, this partnership has already led to important programmatic initiatives such as the HUD Sustainable Communities Planning Grant Program, the DOT Urban Circulator and Bus and Bus Facility Program and the EPA Waters Initiative;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the U.S Conference of Mayors congratulates HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan, DOT Secretary Ray LaHood and EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson for their leadership in creating the Partnership for Sustainable Communities;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors will continue to work with these three agencies to enhance and promote the Partnership programs and principles.
REGIONAL INNOVATION CLUSTERS TO STRENGTHEN COMPETITIVENESS AND PRODUCTIVITY OF REGIONAL ECONOMIES

WHEREAS, metropolitan leaders must contend with spurring economic productivity and quality job growth to safely lead their regions to recovery from today’s economic crisis; and

WHEREAS, technological innovation in products, processes, as well as institutional innovation underlie productivity growth; and

WHEREAS, U.S.-based operations of numerous industries have not been fully effective in adopting innovation to successfully respond to changing market conditions, including competitive challenges from abroad; and

WHEREAS, regional industry clusters promote innovation by providing thick cross-institutional networks that facilitate technology transfer, knowledge sharing, and improved access to specialized labor, materials, and equipment; and

WHEREAS, strong clusters are positively correlated with increased patenting, greater entrepreneurship, and higher wages; and
WHEREAS, the nation’s network of cluster initiatives to promote the growth and development of strong, competitive regional clusters is thin and uneven in terms of geographic and industry coverage; and

WHEREAS, current federal economic development programs are inadequate to support competitive regional clusters; and

WHEREAS, the federal government is fairly alone among the world’s developing countries in its passive stance toward regional competitiveness and cluster development;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors supports fully funding initiatives proposed in the FY2011 budget request that would support Regional Innovation Clusters, including the Economic Development Administration’s $75 million Regional Innovation Clusters program; the Small Business Administration’s $11 million effort to align with clusters; the National Science Foundation’s $12 million Innovation Ecosystems program; the Department of Agriculture’s Regional Innovation Initiatives; and the Department of Labor’s Workforce Innovation Fund; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to reauthorize the America COMPETES legislation, including the new provision (sec. 503 of H.R. 5116) for a regional innovation clusters grant program in the Commerce Department that would award funds to support the development of regional innovation strategies, and create a research and information program to gather and disseminate best practices in regional innovation strategies and collect and make available data on U.S. clusters; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to change the current language about the proposed regional innovation clusters program in the America COMPETES reauthorization bill (sec. 503 of H.R. 5116) to clarify that awards would not go to
narrow, individual cluster projects, but rather regional programs that promote cluster initiatives more generally, in order to enhance regional flexibility and capacity to respond to economic change, improve the likelihood of success, and increase cooperation among regional actors.
CALLING ON THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION TO CREATE AN OFFICE DEDICATED TO THE PROMULGATING OF SUSTAINABLE PRINCIPLES, PRACTICES, AND POLICIES

WHEREAS, ‘Sustainable Development’ has been defined by the United Nations World Commission on Environment & Development as “meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs;” and

WHEREAS, sustainable practices have been implemented within State Governments since 1997 when New Jersey was the first state to create a state-wide “Office of Sustainable Development;” and

WHEREAS, States such as Maryland (Office of Sustainability), New York (Interagency Committee on Sustainability and Green Procurement), Massachusetts (Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs), Colorado (Office of Environmental Integration & Sustainability), and Washington (Interagency Sustainability Committee) have created state-wide offices dedicated to the implementation of sustainable practices across several regulatory regimes with quantifiable success; and

WHEREAS, seventy cities across the country have also taken steps to appoint Sustainability Directors or create offices with a mandate of promoting the principles of sustainability within their cities; and

WHEREAS, recent economic, political, and cultural realities have prompted many governments, companies and individuals to assess and reconsider their plans for long-term sustainability; and

WHEREAS, the seriousness of climate change threats has never been more evident, as demand for natural resources continues to escalate, and hopes for reigniting economic growth rest on investments in the emerging green economy; and

WHEREAS, the sustainability practices of some cities are partly financed by funding secured from the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant adding to the future importance of that account remaining whole in out-laying appropriation cycles; and

WHEREAS, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act included thirteen accounts dedicated to funding sustainable economic development initiatives across the nation which accounted for nearly 6 percent of the Act’s total spending, or $43.53 billion; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Congress has appropriated the funding of a sustainable development grant program called the “Sustainable Communities Initiative” which includes two competitive grant programs, one for planning and one for implementation of a sustainability plan at the local government level; and

WHEREAS, though the Administration has established the “Office for Urban Affairs” and various agencies have constructed formal sustainable development organization components within their bureaucratic structures, there remains no unified effort within the administration to promote the many and fragmented initiatives to advance the ‘green’ economy; and
WHEREAS, on October 5, 2009, President Obama issued an Executive Order entitled “Federal Leadership in Environmental, Energy, and Economic Performance,” that sets sustainability goals for Federal agencies and focuses on making improvements in their environmental, energy and economic performance. This effort is being coordinated by the Office of the Federal Environmental Executive; however,

WHEREAS, this resolution seeks to launch an effort to translate the work being done at the Federal level into a plan for bringing these best practices to the local level.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the U.S. Conference of Mayors recommends and endorses the creation of an office within the Administration, whose primary mandate is to encourage, promote, and further principles and practices of sustainability across all sectors of the communities outside the Federal Government; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any apparatus charged with advocating sustainable development may be an existing entity within an agency whose mandate need only be altered to make sustainable development promotion in our communities its main priority.
SUPPORT FOR GREEN AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND FINANCING

WHEREAS, our nation’s low-income households spend on average 19.5% of annual income on home energy costs, while the average median-income household spends just 4.6%; and

WHEREAS, the greening of affordable housing will not only lower utility costs for low-income families, but also create healthier, more vibrant home environments for families that live in public housing developments; and

WHEREAS, incorporating green building practices in affordable housing will promote environmentally smart site planning near public transportation and other community resources, energy efficiency, water conservation and the use of environmentally beneficial building materials that foster healthier outdoor and indoor environments; and

WHEREAS, a number of cities, state housing agencies and the federal government have already incorporated green building criteria into their affordable housing programs; and

WHEREAS, many affordable housing developers have already demonstrated that it is possible to build both green and affordable, including over 9,000 affordable units (40%) of the over 22,000 residential units registered with the U.S. Green Building Council’s LEED for Homes Rating System; and

WHEREAS, affordable housing owners have also demonstrated an ability to complete green retrofits where incentivized by HUD, including 80% of private owners in the Mark to Market program electing to pursue HUD’s innovative Green Initiative,

WHEREAS, multi-family revenue bonds issued by states or local housing agencies are subject to annual volume caps per the Tax Reform Act of 1986; said caps should not be applied to multi-family revenue bonds issued for new housing or housing retrofit for energy efficient housing as in states and local laws.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on the Congress to adopt the GREEN Act, the Energy Efficiency in Housing Act or similar legislation that would transform and modernize the U.S. housing market through the use of Energy Efficient Mortgages and Location Efficient Mortgages while ensuring that the benefits of green buildings are accessible to Americans of all income levels through the use of standards and incentives for affordable housing projects, including green building standards for single-family or multifamily structures.
SUPPORTING FINANCIAL PRESCRIPTIONS FOR ENERGY RETROFITS OF EXISTING BUILDINGS

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors has previously adopted resolutions calling on cities and the federal government to take actions to reduce fossil fuel consumption and global warming pollution; and

WHEREAS, the building sector contributes over one third of all global greenhouse gas emissions released into the atmosphere each year and represents the single largest, most accessible opportunity for deep emission cuts and in the U.S., the building sector accounts for 39% of the nation’s energy use and 72% of U.S. electricity use; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. can save up to $140 billion a year by making our buildings more efficient, while significantly reducing energy and other resource consumption; and

WHEREAS, today’s buildings will constitute a majority of all buildings in the U.S. in 2050 and without a focused effort to reduce retrofit existing buildings and make them more resource efficient, it will be virtually impossible to meet the greenhouse gas emission reduction targets called for in the U.S. Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the large-scale retrofitting of existing buildings will spur job formation resulting in green careers; and

WHEREAS, Energy Financing Districts (Property-Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) and Benefit-Assessed Clean Energy (BACE), Clean Energy Assessment Districts (CEAD), Contractual Assessments, Sustainable Energy Financing, or Special Tax Districts) provide a means for cities to offer financing for commercial or residential energy efficiency retrofits.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors calls upon state legislatures who have not already done so to adopt enabling legislation to allow for Energy Financing Districts to be established in their states and encourages members of the U.S. Conference of Mayors to use Energy Financing Districts as a means to finance the retrofitting of existing buildings.
CALLING ON U.S. CITIES TO ADOPT GREEN BUILDING CODES

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors has previously adopted resolutions calling on cities and the federal government to take actions to reduce fossil fuel consumption and global warming pollution through green building code initiatives; and

WHEREAS, the building sector contributes over one third of all global greenhouse gas emissions released into the atmosphere each year and represents the single largest opportunity for deep emission cuts and in the U.S., the building sector accounts for 39% of the nation’s energy use and 72% of U.S. electricity use; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. can save up to $140 billion a year by making our buildings more efficient, while significantly reducing energy and other resource consumption; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors has vowed to work to increase the fossil-fuel reduction standard for all new buildings to carbon neutral by 2030, in the following increments:

- 60% in 2010
- 70% in 2015
- 80% in 2020
- 90% in 2025
- Carbon-neutral by 2030; and

WHEREAS, local governments have long been at the forefront for developing and implementing cutting-edge strategies to improve the health and safety of their communities’ buildings by embracing new green technologies, voluntary, above-code third-party building rating systems like LEED, and mandatory green building codes; and

WHEREAS, voluntary, above-code programs continue to play an important, distinct and complementary role to mandatory green building codes; and

WHEREAS, many local governments have established – or are seeking to establish – performance-based building codes based on voluntary, leadership rating systems such as LEED rather than code-intended regulatory tools; and

WHEREAS, the advances of building sciences have recognized many technologies and methods that yield higher efficiencies, improved health benefits, and increased safety that most building codes do not yet address, creating barriers to smart solutions; and

WHEREAS, the International Code Council, American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers, American Institute of Architects, American Society for Testing and Materials, the Illuminating Engineering Society of North America, and U.S. Green Building Council have collaborated to launch the International Green Construction Code (IGCC) with code-intended Standard 189.1 as an optional path to compliance, both providing a strong starting point for states, localities and other jurisdictions striving to write minimum requirements for building design, construction and operation practices that incorporate an expanded view of safety into building codes,
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the U.S. Conference of Mayors that they call on all local governments wishing to take a more holistic approach to incorporating energy efficiency in residential and commercial buildings, sustainable community planning and healthy and safe building practices into the codes to adopt the IGCC and consider its Standard 189.1 compliance path as base code in their jurisdiction.
ENERGY RETROFIT CONSIDERATION IN HOME APPRAISAL PROCESS

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors has expressed strong support for federal efforts to advance energy efficiency; and

WHEREAS, building owners and homeowners across the country recognize that energy efficiency upgrades and investments in renewable energy help them save money on utility bills, stay warm in their homes and offices, and conserve resources; and

WHEREAS, green homes and buildings reduce ongoing costs, create a living and working experience that is highly valued by residents and workers, and improve indoor air quality leading to a reduced incidence of illness; and

WHEREAS, a recent Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors study found that U.S. office buildings with an Energy Star rating attracted rental premiums of 3 percent per square foot compared with nearby non-energy efficient buildings of the same size and function; and

WHEREAS, a 2008 GreenWorks Realty study of home sales in the Pacific Northwest found that environmentally certified homes sold for 4.8 percent more and stayed on the market for 24 percent less time than comparable homes sold in 2007; and

WHEREAS, at this time, most energy efficient features do not get noted in reports or result in an increase to a property’s value, and

WHEREAS, the appraisal industry bases its value determination on market tested values such as location, square footage, and low monthly mortgage payment; and

WHEREAS, the appraisal industry does not currently consider a home or building’s level of energy efficiency and renewable energy investments into the property’s value; and

WHEREAS, the expense and effort undertaken to green homes and buildings should be recognized for the extra value they add to a property and receive credit for the investment; and

WHEREAS, legislation is pending in Congress (H.R. 2336 and S. 1379) that requires consideration of energy efficiency improvements and renewable energy sources in appraisals; and

WHEREAS, the Sustainable Communities Initiative, location-efficient mortgage research, and other agency efforts demonstrate the importance of integrating energy efficiency and sustainability into development planning for our communities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors calls upon Congress to pass legislation that requires licensed and certified real estate appraisers to take into consideration any renewable energy sources and energy efficiency or energy-conserving improvements when determining the value of a property; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors calls upon each federal financial institution regulatory agency to establish standards for performance of real estate appraisals that incorporate renewable energy sources and energy efficiency or energy-conserving improvements; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors will lend its support for appraisal processes across the country that take the energy value of a property into consideration.
PROVIDE FEDERAL INCENTIVES TO HOME BUILDERS AND HOMEOWNERS WHO INSTALL FIRE SPRINKLER SYSTEMS IN ANY RESIDENCE

WHEREAS, The United States Conference of Mayors is an organization dedicated to public safety, and

WHEREAS, the United States Conference of Mayors considers it unacceptable that in the 21st century, more than 3,000 people in the United States are killed in fires each year, with an overwhelming number of these deaths occurring in homes, and

WHEREAS, the United States Conference of Mayors desires to have a positive and consequential impact on reducing the nation’s losses due to fire, and

WHEREAS, the United States Conference of Mayors recognizes that fire sprinklers represent a proven, reliable, efficient, and effective method of protecting life and property in residential occupancies, and

WHEREAS, the United States Conference of Mayors recognizes that the installation of residential fire sprinklers will increase construction activity, provide new jobs, and stimulate the economy, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the United States Conference of Mayors urges the Administration and Congress to provide incentives through stimulus grants and tax credits to homeowners who install fire sprinklers in new and existing one- and two-family dwellings and town homes, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the United States Conference of Mayors urges the Administration and Congress to provide incentives through stimulus grants and tax credits to homeowners who may voluntarily choose to install fire sprinklers in existing residential high-rise buildings that are 75 feet and greater, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the United States Conference of Mayors urges the Administration and Congress to provide incentives through stimulus grants and tax credits to homeowners who install fire sprinklers in existing residential apartment buildings that are less than 75 feet in height.
WHEREAS; improving the health and wellness of residents of the United States is a top priority of elected leaders on local, state and federal levels;

WHEREAS; the healthcare system spends an estimated $2.5 trillion dollars (16% of GDP) annually; and

WHEREAS; the healthcare system is primarily focused on curing illness and illness maintenance, as opposed to preventing illness and increasing wellness;

WHEREAS; Without a shift to more prevention-based health care measures, the cost of American health care is estimated to grow to $4 trillion in 2015, from $2.3 trillion today; and

WHEREAS, with increased rates of obesity and other preventable chronic diseases, including diseases related to poor nutrition, indoor air quality, cardiovascular health, and exercise, a child born today is at risk for having a shorter life expectancy than their parents for the first time in history; and

WHEREAS; people around the country are rapidly trying to respond to these growing health concerns by practicing different forms of preventative medicine, making the wellness industry one of the fastest –growing industries in the United States; and

WHEREAS; significant advancements have been made to greatly improve health and wellness through science-driven solutions within the indoor living, working and school environments; and

WHEREAS; the US Conference of Mayors has been a leader in promoting green and healthy living through the Mayors Climate Change Center and the Mayors Healthy Cities Campaign; and

WHEREAS; the US Green Building Council created the LEED standard to create a uniform framework for building green buildings; and

WHEREAS; the cities of Portland and Tucson are exploring the next generation of sustainable building, WELLNESS REAL ESTATE, an evidence-based approach by Delos Living to prevent the onset of disease and improve individual health through daily interactions with healthy living features in the built environment, and applied to all classes of real estate: homes, offices, schools and hotels; and

WHEREAS; Wellness Real Estate marries building architecture and engineering with innovations and research in preventive medicine, including: cardiovascular and respiratory health, sleep health, orthopedic care, weight and metabolism management, stress and mood management, cognition and memory enhancement, health literacy and health behavior motivation; and

WHEREAS; by integrating green building standards, Wellness Real Estate provides a sustainability strategy that is holistic: concretely addressing both environmental concerns as well as each individual’s physical and emotional health and wellbeing.
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the US Conference of Mayors encourages:

- Mayors to create comprehensive policies and programs to encourage wellness and healthy lifestyles through education and community outreach efforts, and
- Mayors as the chief executive officials to consider key wellness factors when developing real estate, schools and public buildings.
CRIMINAL AND SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

SUPPORT FOR COPS HIRING GRANTS

WHEREAS, as a result of the budget impact of the economic downturn on cities across the nation, some cities have had to lay off police officers, and others have avoided doing so only by making cuts in other parts of city government; and

WHEREAS, last year the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services received 7,200 applications requesting $8.36 billion to hire, rehire, or avoid laying off approximately 39,000 officers under the COPS Hiring Recovery Program, and the $1 billion provided through the Recovery Act were only sufficient to hire about one in eight of the officers requested; and

WHEREAS, while the COPS Office did a superb job of awarding funds based on specified criteria in a speedy and efficient manner, it was unable to fund many deserving applications; and

WHEREAS, as part of the Recovery Act, the COPS Office was able to waive the matching requirements for COPS funding, eliminate the per-officer cap, and allow police departments to use the funds to avoid layoffs and rehire laid-off officers in addition to hiring new officers, and this flexibility was critical to departments’ ability to take advantage of the funds,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Congress should provide at least $1 billion per year for COPS Hiring Grants for FY 2011 and the years ahead; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the COPS Office continue to be able to waive the matching requirements and the per-officer cap, and continue to allow departments to use the funds to avoid laying off officers, rehire laid-off officers, and hire new ones, at least until the economy has made a strong recovery and local revenues have begun to increase substantially.
COMPREHENSIVE GANG VIOLENCE PREVENTION LEGISLATION

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors has previously and consistently adopted resolutions that recognize the broad range of harmful social and economic impacts that result from gang activity and has endorsed a comprehensive approach to anti-gang legislation; and

WHEREAS, criminal street gangs remain a growing and pervasive problem nationwide and the incidence of gang-related felony crimes and violence continues to increase in urban, suburban and rural communities; and

WHEREAS, the National Gang Threat Assessment for 2009 found that:
  • Approximately 1 million gang members belonging to more than 20,000 gangs were criminally active within all 50 states and the District of Columbia as of September 2008;
  • Local street gangs, or neighborhood-based street gangs, continue to account for the largest number of gangs nationwide;
  • Criminal gangs commit as much as 80 percent of the crime in many communities and crimes include alien smuggling, armed robbery, auto theft, drug trafficking, extortion, fraud, home invasions, identity theft, murder and weapons trafficking;
  • Gang members are the primary retail-level distributors of most illicit drugs with many U.S.-based gang members illegally crossing the U.S.-Mexican border to smuggle illicit drugs and illegal aliens into the U.S.; and
  • Many gangs actively use the Internet to recruit new members and to communicate with members in other parts of the U.S. or in foreign countries; and

WHEREAS, gang operations, activities, and their effects cross multiple local and state jurisdictions and cannot be adequately addressed at the local level alone; and

WHEREAS, criminal justice experts and scientific research support the need for a comprehensive and balanced approach to address the continuing and changing nature of gangs and gang-related crimes which includes prevention, enforcement, intervention and re-entry strategies; and

WHEREAS, the Congress has repeatedly attempted to pass gang prevention legislation only to find that such legislation is judged not comprehensive and is deemed to be either too hard on enforcement or too lenient with criminal gang members,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls upon the Obama Administration and the Attorney General to develop and to present to the Congress a comprehensive gang reduction program that:
  • Calls for a balanced approach to prevention, enforcement, intervention and re-entry services which relies on evidence based practices with rigorous process and outcome evaluation;
  • Clearly defines what comprises a program of prevention and intervention; and
  • Can result in the passage of long-overdue legislation.
REDUCING THE BACKLOG OF DNA RAPE KITS

WHEREAS, rape is a serious problem in the U.S. where the latest Department of Justice statistics from 2006 indicate there were an estimated 261,000 rapes and sexual assaults with only 1/3 of these crimes being reported; and

WHEREAS, the collection and testing of DNA evidence is a critical tool in solving rape cases; and

WHEREAS, there is a significant rape kit backlog in the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, a 2008 survey by the National Institute of Justice of state and local governments who had applied for funding under the FY09 Forensic DNA Backlog Reduction Program showed a backlog of 70,693 cases, resulting in cases taking several years for processing; and

WHEREAS, due to burdensome and unnecessary technical review requirements imposed by the Federal Bureau of Investigation’s Quality Assurance Standards for Forensic DNA Laboratories, published in July 2009, a second backlog of cases is developing; and

WHEREAS, kits that have been tested at a vendor Forensic DNA Laboratory have been returned to the public crime laboratory for technical review; and

WHEREAS, due to a lack of local resources and staffing in conducting the technical reviews, there are delays of many months in the data being able to be uploaded into the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS), resulting in offenders out on the streets for longer periods and assaulting more victims; and

WHEREAS, the FBI is in the process of evaluating the technical review regulations with the intent to revise them later this year,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls upon the Federal Bureau of Investigation to revise the 100 percent technical review requirement and that the FBI work with state and local law enforcement agencies to develop alternatives that allow for the speedy reduction of the DNA backlog while maintaining the integrity of the testing and its results.
REDUCING AND RESPONDING TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

WHEREAS, domestic violence is a major source of calls for assistance across the country, and has adverse consequences for local governments, requiring police and other departments to focus more of their resources on responding to calls and the concomitant need to deliver an array of services to victims and aggressors; and

WHEREAS, the drastic, deep and severe economic downturn has exacerbated this problem; and

WHEREAS, in January 2010 The U.S. Conference of Mayors Women Mayors Caucus published a 77-city survey on city responses to domestic violence which found that the number of domestic violence calls has had an impact on police department staffing in about two-thirds of the survey cities; just over half of the cities have a separate domestic violence unit in their police departments; nine in 10 of the cities have a victim advocate; 72 percent of the cities there have a shelter or safe haven for victims of domestic violence; and 83 percent have developed public/private partnerships to help reduce domestic violence; and

WHEREAS, increased funding sources, beginning with the federal government, are needed to support public-private partnerships and other local efforts to address this problem; and

WHEREAS, legislation has been introduced to amend the Violence Against Women Act, the primary federal statute which provides assistance to local officials in their efforts to prevent and respond to domestic violence, by improving assistance to domestic and sexual violence victims; and

WHEREAS, the Improving Assistance to Domestic and Sexual Violence Victims Act of 2009, would expand the role of the national resource center on workplace responses to domestic violence to require information and assistance to victim service providers and other community-based organizations and coalitions, expand requirements for providing culturally and linguistically specific services to domestic and sexual violence victims; impose limits on Internet publication of protection order information in domestic violence cases; exempt victims of dating violence from certain costs for criminal proceedings and protection orders; provide for sexual assault forensic medical personnel examiners to collect and preserve evidence in sexual assault cases; expand grant purposes to include HIV, hepatitis, and sexually transmitted infection testing and treatment for victims of sexual assault; expand visa eligibility for aliens who are victims of domestic violence and sex trafficking; and permit certain aliens lawfully present in the United States to qualify for low-income housing assistance,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors supports the Violence Against Women Act, encourages additional funding to address domestic violence for public-private partnerships, and supports the Improving Assistance to Domestic and Sexual Violence Victims Act of 2009.
REIMBURSING LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES FOR EXPENSES INCURRED DURING DIGNITARY VISITS SPONSORED BY THE UNITED STATES SECRET SERVICE AND THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE REQUIRING LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT SUPPORT

WHEREAS, the United States has the responsibility under international law to protect visiting foreign dignitaries in this country, and

WHEREAS, Title 18 of the United States Code, Section 3056, requires the United States Secret Service (hereinafter USSS), Department of Homeland Security, to protect the President, Vice President, President-elect, Vice President-elect, former Presidents, their spouses and immediate families, visiting heads of foreign states and governments, major presidential and vice presidential candidates, and other individuals as designated by the President, and

WHEREAS, the Diplomatic Security Service (hereinafter DSS), Department of State, is tasked with providing protective security for the Secretary of State, United States Ambassador to the United Nations, and all visiting foreign dignitaries, and

WHEREAS, the USSS and DSS do not have the staffing to provide the necessary dignitary protection network for protective visits in local jurisdictions and must rely upon local law enforcement agencies to ensure the most comprehensive protection possible for the protectees, and

WHEREAS, the support provided to the USSS and DSS is vital; however, it places a huge financial burden upon the local law enforcement agencies and diverts their limited personnel and equipment resources from the services regularly provided to the community, and

WHEREAS, the Honolulu Police Department provided direct support to the USSS and DSS for five dignitary visits and two Presidential-related visits in 2009 at a cost of over $600,000, and

WHEREAS, due to the economic crisis nationwide and the resulting budgetary shortfalls at the city and county levels, local governments need assistance in bearing the costs incurred for dignitary protection services provided to federal agencies,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the Administration and the Congress to provide reimbursement funding to local law enforcement agencies for expenses incurred in providing direct support to federal agencies for dignitary protective visits.
700 MHz “D BLOCK” SPECTRUM ASSIGNMENT TO PUBLIC SAFETY

WHEREAS, the mandated conversion from analog television broadcasting to digital television broadcasting in 2009 resulted in certain 700 MHz spectrum becoming available for alternative uses, including public safety; and

WHEREAS, Congress allocated 10 MHz of spectrum to create a dedicated Public Safety band, assigned without cost to a national nonprofit public safety licensee for management; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) designated the 10 MHz of “D Block” spectrum immediately adjacent to the Public Safety Band for auction to a commercial provider, subject to a mandate to establish a public-private partnership with the public safety licensee in order to build a nationwide interoperable broadband public safety network meeting reliability and availability standards; and

WHEREAS, no bidder in the January 2008 auction of D Block met the FCC’s reserve price of $1.33 billion under those conditions; and

WHEREAS, the FCC’s new National Broadband Plan (March 2010) proposes instead auctioning the D Block to the highest bidder for commercial applications, requiring some interoperable technology standards and “priority” access for public safety; and

WHEREAS, the FCC timetable to conduct this auction is within the first six months of 2011; and

WHEREAS, the FCC acknowledges that public safety will need more than the currently dedicated 10 MHz in the future; and

WHEREAS, the D Block position contiguous with the current Public Safety band uniquely enables greater operational efficiencies and cost-effectiveness through reduced technical complexity, consolidation of multiple communications systems, and elimination of adjacent channel interference; and

WHEREAS, the D Block is ideal for public safety use because its unique propagation characteristics provide superior long-range coverage in mountainous terrain and in-building penetration, in contrast to the available 4.9 GHz public safety network; and

WHEREAS, wireless commercial networks lack hardening, redundancy, backup power capability, and reliability needed for mission-critical public safety functions; and

WHEREAS, wireless commercial networks cannot guarantee first responders access over other users or dynamically engage prioritization by level of incident; and

WHEREAS, the FCC-proposed alternative of “priority” and roaming requirements will still leave public safety to compete for access because commercial networks are not sized or engineered to handle traffic spikes arising from large-scale incidents and lack the technical capability to pre-empt other users already on the system; and
WHEREAS, the FCC auction plan and technical advantages of the D Block likely will force public safety into a sole-source vendor relationship with the commercial auction winner, rather than encouraging competition to serve the public safety sector; and

WHEREAS, providing the D Block asset to public safety control could better leverage competitive commercial provider participation in network build-out consistent with stringent reliability and availability specifications, at terms, conditions, and costs more favorable to public safety; and

WHEREAS, allocating the D Block to public safety would double the amount of spectrum dedicated to first responder communications while reducing the total new commercial broadband spectrum available by only 1.25 percent; and

WHEREAS, eight of the largest national public safety organizations have reached a consensus position that Congress should reallocate the D Block spectrum to public safety,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors opposes the FCC proposal in the National Broadband Plan to auction the D Block spectrum to a commercial provider; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls upon Congress to immediately pass legislation that prevents the FCC from undertaking an auction in 2011, and conditions further FCC action on formal Congressional approval of plans for the D Block and meeting public safety spectrum needs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls upon Congress to reallocate the D Block to public safety; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors endorses identification of alternative federal funding sources, such as potential for a user fee on wireless spectrum licensees that is dedicated to the deployment of an interoperable public safety network in the D Block, in order to ensure that all states and localities can afford costs associated with transition to a nationwide network.
UPGRADING THE 9-1-1 EMERGENCY SYSTEM TO NEXT GENERATION

WHEREAS, in the past 15 years, advancements in modern communications technology have created the need for a more advanced system to access emergency care; and

WHEREAS, the existing 9-1-1 system has been a success story for more than 30 years and has been stretched to its limit as technology advances; and

WHEREAS, new wireless and Internet Protocol (IP)-based communications devices are being developed at a rapid rate, offering such capabilities as text and video messaging; and

WHEREAS, the current 9-1-1 system was never intended to receive calls and data from these new and emerging technologies; and

WHEREAS, through such cumbersome adaptations, E9-1-1 is being asked to perform functions it was not designed to handle; and

WHEREAS, the nation’s 9-1-1 systems are in need of a significant overhaul,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urge the Administration and the Congress to implement a Next Generation 9-1-1 (NG9-1-1), which is a system comprised of Emergency Services IP networks, IP-based software services and applications, databases, and data management processes that are interconnected to Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) premise equipment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urge the Administration and the Congress to ensure that the system provides location-based routing to the appropriate emergency entity, uses additionally available data elements and business policies to augment PSAP routing, and delivers geodetic and/or civic location information and the call back number; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urge the Administration and the Congress to initiate a coordinated effort to ensure that the NG9-1-1 system supports the transfer of calls to other NG9-1-1-capable PSAPS or other authorized entities based on and including accumulated data; provides standardized interfaces for call and message services; processes all types of emergency calls, including non-voice (multimedia) messages; and acquires and integrates additional data useful to call routing and handling for appropriate emergency entities.
RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE COLLECTIVE AGREEMENT ON GUN VIOLENCE SIGNED BY GLOBAL MAYORS ASSEMBLED AT THE 2010 RICHARD J. DALEY GLOBAL CITIES FORUM, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

WHEREAS, on April 25-27, 2010, mayors and municipal leaders from more than 50 major cities around the world assembled in Chicago for the Sixth Annual Richard J. Daley Global Cities Forum to discuss urban issues of common priority and concern; and

WHEREAS, the Global Cities Forum included a discussion dedicated to the issue of “Making Our Cities Safer;” and

WHEREAS, the discussion of how best to enhance public safety ultimately led to a discussion among the mayors and municipal leaders assembled at the Global Cities Forum of the devastating consequences to cities and their residents from illegal guns and gun violence; and

WHEREAS, the assembled mayors and municipal leaders agreed that due to the fact that they are on the front lines, they experience first-hand the immediate consequences and damages caused by illegal guns and gun violence in ways that other levels of governments do not; and

WHEREAS, the assembled mayors and municipal leaders agreed that the prevalence of illegal guns in their cities is resulting in unacceptable levels of human, social and economic damage; and

WHEREAS, the assembled mayors and municipal leaders agreed that illegal guns are fundamentally undermining other local efforts to enhance safety and improve quality of life in their cities, contributing to an increase in youth violence worldwide, and supporting international criminal organizations that traffic in illicit drugs and other contraband, including humans; and

WHEREAS, the assembled mayors and municipal leaders agreed that the pervasiveness of illegal guns in their cities and worldwide is driven largely by issues that cities do not have the authority to address, including lax regulation and oversight of the world’s gun industry, lack of legal accountability of the gun industry, and the ease with which guns can be globally trafficked, obtained, carried and traded; and

WHEREAS, the assembled mayors and municipal leaders agreed these issues call for a new level of international cooperation among themselves, their governments and other entities; and

WHEREAS, 25 mayors from around the world, including mayors representing cities in Argentina, Canada, Chile, Congo, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Jordan, Kenya, Mexico, Scotland, South Africa, Spain, Sweden and the United States, signed an unprecedented resolution at the Global Cities Forum agreeing to forge a new level of global cooperation on gun violence by working together to:

• Call upon their respective national governments to help address the issue of global gun trafficking and gun violence by making it part of a global agenda;
• Call upon the United States government to take a leadership role in addressing the issue of global gun violence in the world’s cities by imposing greater oversight and accountability of the gun industry, and stricter regulation and enforcement of the means by which guns can be globally trafficked, obtained, carried and traded;
• Where possible, seek redress against the gun industry through the courts of the world – including local, state, and federal courts, and international courts – for damages caused to our countries, cities, and communities by global trafficking of illegal guns;
• Call upon international human rights and public health organizations to help cities address global trafficking in guns and its sources;
• Challenge the news media to more effectively and more deeply report the nature of international trade in guns and the damages being inflicted upon the world; and
• Continue to work together to report on and advance progress on the above objectives,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors support the goals of the resolution signed by mayors at the Global Cities Forum, as stated above; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors work in partnership with cities and organizations around the world to help advance progress on the Global Cities Forum resolution.
IN SUPPORT OF THE 2010 NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL STRATEGY

WHEREAS, mayors are familiar with the consequences of drug use, including the relationships affected, the crimes generated, the childhoods interrupted, and the neighborhoods blighted; and

WHEREAS, according to the 2008 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, an estimated 20.1 million Americans aged 12 or older (eight percent of the population) were current illicit drug users, meaning they have used an illicit drug during the month prior to the survey interview; and

WHEREAS, more than 7.6 million people have a diagnosable drug use disorder; and

WHEREAS, drug use places a major strain on our economy, accounting for significant expenditures every year in health care costs; and

WHEREAS, drug use is a preventable and treatable condition; and

WHEREAS, injection drug use is implicated in one-third of AIDS cases in the United States according to the National Institute of Drug Abuse; and

WHEREAS, prescription drug abuse is a rapidly growing substance abuse issue which requires adequate prevention messaging; and

WHEREAS, drug-induced deaths now outnumber gunshot deaths in America and are fast approaching motor vehicle crashes as the leading cause of injury death; and

WHEREAS, the Obama Administration recognizes the importance of a balanced strategy of prevention, treatment, and law enforcement in order to decrease drug use and its consequences; and

WHEREAS, the President's $15.5 billion Fiscal Year 2011 National Drug Control Budget calls for an increase of $521.1 million over the FY 2010 enacted level, and includes a 6.5 percent increase for prevention and treatment; an increase of $73.8 million for Federal interdiction efforts; and an increase of $20.1 million for international support; and

WHEREAS, $1.7 billion has been requested in the President’s FY 2011 Budget to support a variety of education and outreach programs aimed at preventing the initiation of drug use, a 13.4 percent increase over the FY 2010 enacted level; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors already has adopted policy resolutions calling upon the federal government to take a public health approach to substance abuse issues and has raised the importance of addressing the gap between the number of people who have a diagnosed substance abuse problem and the availability of treatment; and

WHEREAS, the National Drug Control Strategy reflects a national consultation process through which the Director of National Drug Control Policy consulted with mayors, health care professionals, law enforcement officials and other local community leaders to identify the best approaches to drug control to include in the National Strategy; and
WHEREAS, as a result of that extensive consultation process, President Obama’s National Drug Control Strategy reflects a new approach to drug policy, adopting a science-based approach to prevention and treatment, innovations in law enforcement and the wise use of criminal justice resources; and

WHEREAS, President Obama’s National Drug Control Strategy acknowledges that drug problems are most effectively handled at the local community level and the Drug Control Strategy emphasizes the importance of local, community based efforts to prevent drug use; and

WHEREAS, the National Drug Control Strategy highlights the importance of local efforts to disrupt drug markets and integrate treatment into basic health care in order to stop drug abuse problems from becoming chronic; and

WHEREAS, the policies outlined in the National Drug Control Strategy, when implemented, should reduce public spending while improving public safety,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors endorses the new approach to drug control reflected in the National Drug Control Strategy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Conference of Mayors applauds the strategy’s call for:
- strengthening prevention in local communities;
- endorsing the importance of integrating substance abuse treatment into mainstream healthcare;
- expanding support for recovery;
- addressing the cycle of drug use, crime, delinquency and incarceration; and
- seeking to disrupt domestic drug trafficking and production while strengthening international partnerships.
IMPROVING TREATMENT AND PREVENTING DRUG-RELATED HARMS AMONG RETURNING VETERANS OF THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES

WHEREAS, the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan are in their seventh and eighth years respectively, and nearly two million American troops have served in either conflict, thousands of whom have been deployed multiple times; and

WHEREAS, the men and women of the armed services have made sacrifices to preserve the freedom of the American people and we have an obligation to care for them; and

WHEREAS, according to a 2008 report by the RAND corporation, nearly one-third of current conflict veterans will report symptoms of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), major depression, or other cognitive disorder or disability; and

WHEREAS, these psychological wounds of war, if left untreated, often contribute to substance abuse and addiction, fatal overdose, homelessness, suicide; and violations of the law, especially nonviolent drug offenses; and

WHEREAS, in 2004, the United States Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics reported that 140,000 veterans were incarcerated in state and federal prisons, with tens of thousands more in county jails; and

WHEREAS, experts believe the number of incarcerated veterans will dramatically increase as more service men and women return from Iraq and Afghanistan; and

WHEREAS, research shows that the single greatest predictive factor for the incarceration of veterans is substance abuse; and

WHEREAS, veterans incarcerated for drug offenses received average sentences that were one year longer than those of non-veterans incarcerated for the same offenses; and

WHEREAS, The United States Conference of Mayors adopted a resolution at its 75th Annual Meeting declaring the war on drugs a failure and calling for a public health approach to drug problems, which includes community-based treatment instead of incarceration for nonviolent drug offenders; overdose prevention policies, and greatly increased access to medication-assisted therapies like methadone and buprenorphine; and

WHEREAS, diverting veterans from jail and prison through the training of first responders and through the implementation of veterans diversion programs can help returning veterans struggling with substance abuse and mental health conditions; and

WHEREAS, The United States Conference of Mayors adopted a resolution at its 77th Annual Meeting calling for the implementation of strategies to prevent homelessness among returning veterans, including local efforts to divert veterans into treatment instead of arresting and jailing them, and outreach and reentry services for veterans being discharged form correctional facilities; and
WHEREAS, many communities are beginning to adopt these strategies, including Buffalo, New York; Orange, Santa Clara, and San Bernardino counties, California; Tulsa, Oklahoma; Anchorage, Alaska; Chicago, Illinois; King County, Washington; Madison, Wisconsin; Phoenix, Arizona; Minneapolis, Minnesota; Rochester, New York; and Allegheny County, Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, California and Minnesota have passed laws providing that veterans who suffer from PTSD, substance abuse, or psychological problems as a result of their service and who commit certain nonviolent offenses may be diverted to treatment instead of jail or prison; and

WHEREAS, these positive first steps must be improved and expanded; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) recently adopted a policy prohibiting VA physicians from recommending medical marijuana to their patients, even in jurisdictions that have legalized marijuana for medical use, and even when marijuana is the safest and most effective medicine to treat PTSD and other service-related conditions; and

WHEREAS, patient reports and published research indicate that medical marijuana can be a highly effective treatment for PTSD, and overwhelming scientific evidence has already proven marijuana’s safety and efficacy for treating conditions like chronic pain, which affects many combat-injured veterans; and

WHEREAS, medical marijuana carries none of the risks associated with prescription drugs used to treat PTSD, which have been implicated in the tragic overdose deaths of several current conflict veterans; and

WHEREAS, PTSD is the leading medical condition qualifying for the medical use of marijuana in the State of New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, veterans should not be deprived of the same rights as nonveteran patients in the jurisdictions that permit medical marijuana use; and

WHEREAS, research and news reports suggest that veterans are at high risk of overdose given the widespread use of prescription medications, especially opioid analgesics for relief of pain from combat injuries and antidepressants for mental health treatments; and

WHEREAS, military surveys have found prescription opioid medications to be the most widely misused class of drug among members of the armed forces; and in May it was reported that the number of U.S. Army soldiers enrolling in treatment for opiate addiction rose 500 percent between 2004 and 2009; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Defense’s TRICARE insurance system explicitly prohibits coverage of methadone and buprenorphine treatment for active duty personnel or for veterans in the process of transitioning from DoD care, and as a result, active and recently active military personnel are denied effective treatment for opioid dependence, often at a critical, early juncture when full-blown addiction could still be avoided; and
WHEREAS, The United States Conference of Mayors adopted a resolution at its 76th Annual Meeting urging cities to take actions to prevent overdose fatalities, such as the distribution of Naloxone—an opioid antagonist medication that reverses the respiratory failure that commonly causes death from opioid overdose—directly to lay people; and the adoption of medical amnesty laws for witnesses of a drug overdose, such as the State of New Mexico adopted in 2007; and

WHEREAS, The United States Conference of Mayors adopted a resolution at its 77th Annual Meeting advocating greatly expanded access to addiction treatment, including alternatives to incarceration, specially tailored treatment, recovery support to veterans returning from active duty - particularly veterans who are suffering from or are at high risk for PTSD and/or alcohol and other drug problems,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United Conference of Mayors urge immediate policy changes to improve the health, reduce the likelihood of accidental death, and preserve the freedom of those who have served in our armed forces; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the United States Conference of Mayors urge state and federal governments to modify sentencing statutes and improve court-ordered drug diversion programs to better treat—rather than criminalize and incarcerate—veterans who commit nonviolent drug-related crimes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that such diversion programs allow veterans to access treatment without first pleading guilty; expand their treatment options and quality; embrace medication-assisted therapies like methadone and buprenorphine; prohibit jail sanctions, which would likely exacerbate veterans’ mental and physical injuries or illnesses; and empower treatment professionals to make treatment decisions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors direct and train local law enforcement agencies to divert veterans to appropriate VA care instead of booking and arresting them, when such a disposition is in the interest of the veteran and public safety; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors urge the VA to allow physicians to make recommendations related in medical marijuana to their veteran-patients in jurisdictions where marijuana is legal for medical use; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urge the VA and Department of Defense (DoD) to immediately adopt overdose prevention programs and policies targeting veterans and service members who misuse alcohol and other drugs, or who take prescription medications, especially opioid analgesics, and that such policies include improved patient screening, monitoring, supervision, and education, and physician training; and the prescription of Naloxone to all veterans who are taking opioid pain medications; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urge states— and even military bases—to follow the lead of New Mexico and enact laws that provide legal amnesty to persons who report an overdose to emergency medical services; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the VA increase access to methadone, buprenorphine and other medication-assisted therapies among opioid-dependent veterans; and the DoD eliminate restrictions preventing TRICARE from covering buprenorphine and methadone for active military, veterans, and their families.
OPPOSING ARIZONA LAW SB 1070

WHEREAS, on April 24 the Governor of Arizona signed into law SB 1070, legislation which would:

- Make it a state crime to be in the country illegally;
- Require immigrants to have proof of their immigration status;
- Require police officers to "make a reasonable attempt" to determine the immigration status of a person if there is a "reasonable suspicion" that he or she is an illegal immigrant, unless it would hinder or obstruct an investigation, and race, color and national origin are not to be only factors police officers consider;
- Allow lawsuits against local or state government agencies that have policies that hinder enforcement of immigration laws; and
- Target the hiring of illegal immigrants as day laborers by prohibiting people from stopping a vehicle on a road to offer employment and by prohibiting a person from getting into a stopped vehicle on a street to be hired for work if it impedes traffic; and

WHEREAS, SB 1070 is not scheduled to take effect until July 29, 2010; and

WHEREAS, SB 1070 was opposed by many mayors, police chiefs, and other local officials in Arizona before it became law and is still opposed by these officials; and

WHEREAS, many mayors from cities across the nation, officials at state and federal levels, leaders of national organizations, and individual citizens have expressed outrage at the Arizona law and concern for the civil rights violations to which it will lead; and

WHEREAS, several lawsuits, including those by some Arizona cities, have been filed which challenge the constitutionality of SB 1070 and would enjoin it from taking effect, and those suits are currently pending in court; and

WHEREAS, officials in several cities across the country and of national organizations have proposed immediate economic sanctions against Arizona because of SB 1070; and

WHEREAS, measures similar to Arizona Law SB 1070 are now being proposed for consideration in several other states; and

WHEREAS, many acknowledge that it was a lack of Congressional action on immigration reform which lead to passage of SB 1070 in Arizona and may lead to similar actions in other states; and

WHEREAS, in 2009 The U.S. Conference of Mayors adopted immigration reform policy which calls for quick passage of comprehensive immigration reform legislation based on five key principles, all of which were embodied in policy previously adopted by the organization:

- Increased border security and enforcement;
- The protection of human and civil rights of both citizens and non-citizens being detained;
• More support for city and state governments which are disproportionately shouldering the costs of the current broken immigration system;
• The use of new technologies to match up foreign workers with jobs in this country that are going unfilled (guest worker program);
• The elimination of current obstacles to citizenship that have resulted in 10-12 million undocumented residents living in the shadows,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors register its strong opposition to Arizona Law SB 1070; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Conference of Mayors support challenging Arizona Law SB 1070 through the courts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Conference of Mayors oppose the enactment of laws similar to Arizona Law SB 1070 in other states; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Conference of Mayors call on the Congress to quickly enact bipartisan comprehensive immigration reform legislation which incorporates the Conference’s five principles for reform so that our nation will have a sensible, effective federal immigration policy and state officials will not feel compelled to enact their own immigration laws.
CALLING UPON THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO PASS COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM THAT PREEMPTS ANY STATE ACTIONS TO ASSERT AUTHORITY OVER FEDERAL IMMIGRATION LAW

WHEREAS, for many years, The U.S. Conference of Mayors has recognized the economic, social and cultural contributions immigrants make to our communities and

WHEREAS, at the same time, for too many years, the absence of a sensible, effective and comprehensive national immigration policy in the U.S. has resulted in enormous human and financial costs; and

WHEREAS, the current lack of a comprehensive immigration policy has resulted in the breaking up of families, the exploitation of undocumented workers by employers, the deportation of workers who provide needed goods and services to their communities, the loss of cooperation by undocumented immigrants with law enforcement in the apprehension of criminals thereby undermining the successful principles of community policing, the further victimization of those suffering from domestic violence and child abuse, and the needless death of hundreds of people attempting to cross the border illegally under hazardous and deadly conditions; and

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of municipal leaders to protect the wellbeing and safety of all the people residing in their cities and to respect the rights of and provide equal services to all individuals regardless of national origin or immigration status; and

WHEREAS, state and local governments, especially law enforcement agencies, incur added costs for enforcement, prosecution and incarceration of individuals related to crimes directly connected to illegal immigration without adequate reimbursement by the federal government; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors has a long-standing opposition to the separation of families by the enforcement of current immigration laws; and

WHEREAS, the lack of a comprehensive national immigration policy has been divisive to the country and has resulted in misguided legislation such as that recently enacted in the State of Arizona which makes it a state crime to be in the country illegally, requires immigrants to have proof of their immigration status, requires police officers to “make a reasonable attempt” to determine the immigration status of a person if there is a “reasonable suspicion” he or she is an illegal immigrant, targets the hiring of illegal immigrants as day laborers by prohibiting vehicles from stopping to offer employment, and allows lawsuits against local or state government agencies that hinder the enforcement of immigration laws,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors call for the immediate repeal of the Arizona immigration law (SB 1070);

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors call upon the President and the Congress to take immediate action to pass comprehensive national immigration reform legislation that contains the following key principals:
• Providing greater border security and enforcement, with a “zero tolerance” policy against gang members, smugglers, terrorists and undocumented immigrants who commit violent and dangerous felonies while residing in the U.S.;
• Recognizing the human and civil rights of both citizens and non-citizens being detained with a special emphasis on not separating families;
• Strengthening the penalties against employers who knowingly employ undocumented workers and especially those employers who exploit undocumented workers;
• Creating a program for the admission of temporary workers based upon the needs of the economy and over time qualifying for legal permanent residency;
• Providing more fiscal support for city and state governments which are disproportionately shouldering the costs of the current broken immigration system;
• Implementing a pathway to citizenship of the estimated 11-12 million undocumented immigrants that requires a background check, payment of fines or back taxes, proficiency in English and standing in the “back of the citizenship line.”
URGING PAROLE FOR ALL HAITIAN BENEFICIARIES OF APPROVED IMMIGRANT VISA PETITIONS AND EXPEDITED CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF ALL PENDING IMMIGRANT VISA PETITIONS

WHEREAS, on January 12, 2010, Haiti was devastated by an unprecedented 7.0 Richter Scale earthquake which has killed at least 250,000 people, left millions homeless and injured, and destroyed important Haitian government and international institutional resources and infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, Haiti is the western hemisphere’s poorest nation and one of the poorest in the world; and

WHEREAS, on January 14, 2010, President Obama said that the disaster in Haiti “is one of those moments that call out for American’s leadership” and

WHEREAS, it is a policy of the United States to expeditiously assist Haiti’s people and government to rebuild and recover from this catastrophe; and

WHEREAS, the Haitian diaspora is mainly in the United States and remits about $2 billion dollars annually which is crucial to the welfare and survival of Haitians and to Haiti’s welfare; and

WHEREAS, if allowed to work in the United States, the 55,000 beneficiaries would send remittances to Haiti supporting an estimated 550,000 to one million persons in Haiti; and

WHEREAS, such capital flow is by far the largest source of foreign aid to Haiti and more important to Haitians per capita, than to any other nation in the world; and

WHEREAS, prior to the January 12, 2010 earthquake, the United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS) had approved immigrant visa petitions for 55,000 Haitian beneficiaries now languishing unnecessarily in devastated Haiti until their priority dates become current, which is estimated to take anywhere from six to 12 years; and

WHEREAS, there are legal ways for the Obama Administration to promptly parole these 55,000 Haitian beneficiaries who are already approved for entry into the United States; and

WHEREAS, doing so would reunite families, provide for orderly migration, and ease the burden on Haiti’s overwhelmed government without cost the United States; and

WHEREAS, Haiti’s prompt recovery and the survival of its democracy are of great national security to the United States given Haiti’s proximity and our large Haitian-American population; and

WHEREAS, paroling the 55,000 Haitian approved beneficiaries into the United States and allowing them to work is the simplest, most effective way to help Haiti recover from the catastrophe now being suffered; and
WHEREAS, DHS has humanitarian parole authority under the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) under Section 212(d)(5)(A) to expeditiously parole into the United States persons for “urgent humanitarian reasons or significant public benefit;” and

WHEREAS, the United States has brought hundreds of thousands of Indochinese, Cuban, and Kosovo refugees, among others, into the United States when it was deemed it to be in the interests of national security; and

WHEREAS, although no congressional action is needed for DHS to exercise its humanitarian parole authority under the INA, the Haitian Emergency Life Protection Act of 2010 (“HELP Act”), S. 2998 and H.R. 4616, currently pending legislation, would grant V visas to bring these Haitian beneficiaries into the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Obama Administration has been urged to promptly parole the 55,000 Haitian beneficiaries of approved immigrant visa petitions by the editorial board of the Washington Post in their editorial, ”The U.S. should welcome Haitians in,” published on January 29, 2010; and

WHEREAS, the editorial board of the Miami Herald followed suit in its lead editorial, “U.S. must lead in Haiti’s recovery,” published on March 22, 2010; and

WHEREAS, Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano was urged to parole the 55,000 beneficiaries by House of Representatives Chairpersons John Conyers (Judiciary), Howard Berman (Foreign Affairs), and Zoe Lofgren (immigration subcommittee), Representative Yvette Clark, South Florida’s Republican Representatives Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, Lincoln Diaz-Balart, and Mario Diaz-Balart, and by Representative Anh Cao of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, the same relief was urged in a March 12, 2010 letter to Secretary Napolitano by 74 national and international organizations and eight other individuals; and

WHEREAS, the same relief was urged on February 2, 2010 in a Huffington Post op-ed by Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS) Senior Vice President Mark Hetfield; and

WHEREAS, as President Reagan’s Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs Elliot Abrams, who also served as President George W. Bush’s Deputy National Security Advisor, wrote in his Washington Post op-ed, “What Haiti Needs: A Haitian Diaspora,” January 22, 2010, that “a larger Haitian diaspora would be a far better base for the country’s economic future than aid pledges” because their “remittances to Haiti would give its economy a huge and continuing jolt,” and “one of the best ways to help Haiti is to allow some Haitians to move abroad” because “migration would mean that Haiti needs to provide fewer hospital beds, schools, meals and jobs – and migrants’ remittances will be key to Haiti’s economic recovery for decades to come,” and President Obama “should be asking Congress …to allow a significant increase in the number of Haitians legally admitted to the United States – to several times the roughly 25,000 per year in the past decade. … There are no panaceas for Haiti’s recovery, but any sensible approach must include migration from the island. If the United States is committed to giving Haiti hope for the future, enlarging the Haitian diaspora is a surefire way to succeed;” and
WHEREAS, millions made homeless by the earthquake will suffer unnecessarily during Haiti’s rain and hurricane seasons; thereby decreasing the window available for action; and

WHEREAS, immigrant visa petitions for a further 19,000 Haitian beneficiaries are pending but not yet been approved; and

WHEREAS, helping neighbors and succoring the needy are in the highest traditions and values of the United States,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors hereby urge President Obama and Department of Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano to promptly parole into the United States all Haitian beneficiaries of approved immigrant visa petitions and to permit them to legally work in the United States, and to expedite consideration and approval of all pending but not yet approved immigrant visa petitions.
COMMEMORATION OF THE PASSAGE OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

WHEREAS, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was signed into law on July 26, 1990, “to provide a clear and comprehensive national mandate for the elimination of discrimination against individuals with disabilities;” and

WHEREAS, the ADA protects the rights of individuals with disabilities to work, access the benefits of state and local government programs, use transportation services, utilize telecommunications and access public accommodations and commercial facilities; and

WHEREAS, July 26, 2010, marks the 20th anniversary of the passage of the ADA; and

WHEREAS, the ADA has in many instances achieved this goal, by providing millions of people with disabilities greater access to all aspects of community life but recognizing that more work needs to be done to ensure the ADA fulfills its stated purposes; and

WHEREAS, Title II of the ADA requires local governments to ensure that people with disabilities have equal access to the benefits and services provided by their programs; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors commemorates the 20th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 by affirming its commitment to its goals of equality and inclusion; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges its members to examine the progress made by their respective municipalities in meeting the goals of the ADA,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urge its members to renew their commitment to the ADA by establishing ambitious goals to improve access to their programs and services for people with disabilities over the next decade; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in recognition of the fact that state and local governments’ increasingly rely on the Internet and other forms of information technology to provide information, programs and services to the public, The U.S. Conference of Mayors urge its members to pay special attention to ensuring that the information and services provided via the Internet or other types of information technology is accessible to people with disabilities.
RECOGNIZING THE LEGACY AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF DR. DOROTHY IRENE HEIGHT AS WELL AS CONGRATULATING THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NEGRO WOMEN ON 75 YEARS OF ACTIVISM TO IMPROVE THE LIVES OF AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMEN AND GIRLS

WHEREAS, Dr. Dorothy Irene Height was born on March 24, 1912 and was one of the twentieth century’s early activists against social injustice; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Height was the only woman leader among the civil rights leadership known as the “Big Six” in the 1960’s (Martin Luther King, Jr., Roy Wilkins, Whitney Young, A. Philip Randolph, John Lewis, and James Farmer); and

WHEREAS, Dr. Height headed the National Council of Negro women for four decades, served on the National Board of the YWCA for three decades, and was elected the tenth National President of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority (1947-1956); and

WHEREAS, Dr. Height served as a close advisor on women’s issues to the First Ladies of the United States from Eleanor Roosevelt to Michelle Obama; and

WHEREAS, in 2004, Dr. Height was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal, the most distinguished award bestowed by the United States Congress, for her work as a profound humanitarian and her tireless service to democracy and equality for all; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Height received Presidential honors from Presidents Franklin Roosevelt, John F. Kennedy, Ronald Reagan, and Bill Clinton; and

WHEREAS, President Obama has called Dr. Height the “Godmother” of the Civil Rights Movement, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid referred to her as a “Civil Rights Icon,” and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi introduced House Resolution 1281 on April 21, 2010 expressing recognition for Dr. Height’s life-long dedication and leadership in the struggle for civil rights for all people; and

WHEREAS, founded in 1935 by Mary McLeod Bethune, the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW) is an organization of organizations with the collective mission to lead, develop, and advocate for women of African descent as they support their families and communities; and

WHEREAS, with its 39 national affiliates, more than 240 sections, and a core of volunteers in 34 states NCNW addresses local needs through organized strategies to bring the added support of a network of thousands of women whose collective efforts enhance community service and actions; and

WHEREAS, the Dorothy I. Height Building in Washington, DC is owned by NCNW, and stands as the only African American owned building along the nation’s famed “corridor of power,” and is a symbol to thousands across the country of fulfilled struggle for equality in American society,
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors recognize and honor the legacy of Dr. Dorothy Irene Height by urging passage of the Dorothy I. Height & Whitney M. Young, Jr. Social Work Reinvestment Act; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors honor and recognize the achievements of 75 years of activism by the National Council of Negro Women by urging the Department of Interior to grant National Landmark status to the Dorothy I. Height Building; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we support NCNW’s efforts to make the Dorothy I. Height Building sustainable and train disadvantaged youth in “green” jobs to realize Dr. Height’s vision of making the NCNW Headquarters the “green ornament” of Pennsylvania Avenue.
VETERAN BURIAL

WHEREAS, veterans have played a crucial role in creating and protecting the freedoms that all Americans enjoy; and

WHEREAS, all honorably discharged veterans should have a proper burial and not be interred in a “potter’s field”; and

WHEREAS, every honorably discharged veteran is eligible for interment in a national veteran’s cemetery; and

WHEREAS, federal law establishes guidelines by which the Veterans Administration (“VA”) will pay burial expenses, including transportation, for deceased veterans who die as a result of a disability incurred or aggravated in line of duty or in a VA facility regardless of the cause of death; and

WHEREAS, the VA’s burial transportation expense does not apply to honorably discharged indigent veterans without next-of-kin who die as result on a non-service related illness or who die outside of a VA facility; and

WHEREAS, to ensure that all honorably discharged veterans receive the proper burial they are entitled to, municipalities pay the expense of transporting honorably discharged indigent veterans without next-of-kin who die as result on a non-service related illness or who die outside of a VA hospital facility to the nearest national veteran’s cemetery; and

WHEREAS, most cities do not have a national veterans’ cemetery within their city limits; and

WHEREAS, many national veteran’s cemeteries are sometimes hundreds of miles away or only in neighboring states; and

WHEREAS, most cities are not allowed to incur expenses for transportation of the deceased outside of city limits; and

WHEREAS, the Veterans Administration should bare the expense of transporting honorably discharged indigent veterans without next-of-kin who die as result on a non-service related illness or who die outside of a VA hospital facility to the nearest national veteran’s cemetery; and

WHEREAS, the federal government has a responsibility in to make certain that every honorably discharged veteran receives a proper burial in a national veteran’s cemetery; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors calls for the Veterans Administration to provide for burial transportation to a national veteran’s cemetery for honorably discharged indigent veterans without next-of-kin who die as result on a non-service related illness or who die outside of a VA hospital facility.
ENERGY COMMITTEE

SUPPORTING FULL AND DEDICATED FUNDING OF THE ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND CONSERVATION BLOCK GRANTS

WHEREAS, the nation faces unprecedented energy challenges, including rapidly escalating energy costs, over dependence on foreign sources of energy, and critical choices about energy resources that will affect the nation's future economic well-being and security; and

WHEREAS, ongoing federal investment in energy efficiency and renewable energy is critical to positioning America to be competitive in the global economy, increase American energy independence, build livable and sustainable communities, drive investment in new, clean energy solutions and create new, local jobs, aiding in our national economic recovery; and

WHEREAS, commercial, residential and public buildings are responsible for more than 40 percent of the nation’s energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions and cities are best suited to improve and enforce building codes, foster community-scale renewable energy, and create other programs and incentives to increase efficiency and reduce energy use in commercial and residential buildings; and

WHEREAS, the transportation sector produces one third of the nation’s greenhouse gas emissions and cities can substantially reduce emissions and vehicle-miles traveled by promoting public transit and more effective land use and transportation planning; and

WHEREAS, cities have been laboratories of innovation, successfully pioneering and demonstrating cost-effective clean energy solutions, including increasing energy efficiency for public and private buildings, encouraging energy independence through the use of alternative energy sources, switching their fleets to alternative fuels and more fuel efficient vehicles; and building alternative infrastructure to encourage their citizens to utilize other forms of greener transportation; and

WHEREAS, local governments have also implemented programs that reduce greenhouse gas emissions through reutilization of resources, reduction of energy consumption, and improving the environment through waste reduction and recycling programs, encouraging waste-to-energy technology, and capturing methane in landfills; and

WHEREAS, over 1,025 mayors have signed The U.S. Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, pledging their commitment to reducing their communities’ greenhouse gas emissions by 7 percent from their 1990 levels; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors has endorsed a national goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 80 percent from 1990 levels by 2050; and

WHEREAS, more than 430 local elected leaders from across America have called for additional federal resources for communities to implement greenhouse gas reduction and sustainability
initiatives by endorsing the Climate Communities/ICLEI-USA Empowering Local Government Climate Action Blueprint; and

WHEREAS, successful local government programs could be expanded or replicated throughout the country, thereby resulting in nationwide reductions in energy use which will increase our nation's energy independence and competitiveness while improving our national and global environment; and

WHEREAS, many cities are not able to expand or implement the full range of these types of programs due to budgetary constraints; and

WHEREAS, the federal government, by supporting these types of local activities, would demonstrate its commitment to help solve some of the most important issues facing the nation - energy independence, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and improving the environment; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors has previously conceived and called for the creation of an Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program that would provide money directly to city, county and state governments to implement innovative energy saving and environmental strategies; and

WHEREAS, the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (P. L.110-140) established a new Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program at the U. S. Department of Energy, authorizing $2 billion annually over five fiscal years in formula grants to cities, counties, and states to develop energy efficiency strategies to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions;

WHEREAS, the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA), a law established to stimulate the economy and create over three million jobs, provided $3.2 billion for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant programs to develop and implement energy efficiency programs in their communities; and

WHEREAS, local governments are successfully utilizing their ARRA Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant funds to implement local strategies that create jobs, save energy, promote renewable sources, and cut greenhouse gas emissions;

WHEREAS, cities would benefit from knowing that a dedicated funding mechanism has been established for the EECBG to help them create better short and long term energy efficiency and conservation strategies in their communities,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on Congress and the Administration to appropriate full funding for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program in fiscal year 2011, while supporting higher authorization levels in future years.
CALLING ON CONGRESS TO PASS COMPREHENSIVE CLEAN ENERGY AND CLIMATE PROTECTION LEGISLATION

WHEREAS, comprehensive federal clean energy and climate policy is critical to positioning this country to be competitive in the global economy, increase American energy independence, build livable and sustainable communities, drive investment in new, clean energy solutions and create new, local jobs, aiding in our national economic recovery; and

WHEREAS, commercial and residential buildings produce more than 40 percent of the nation’s greenhouse gas emissions, and cities are best suited to improve building codes, foster community-scale renewable energy and create other incentives to increase efficiency and reduce energy use in buildings and house; and

WHEREAS, the transportation sector produces one third of the nation’s greenhouse gas emissions and cities can significantly mitigate these emissions through enhanced public transit and more effective land use and transportation planning; and

WHEREAS, cities are also the first responders to the impacts of climate change, including drought, heat waves, wildfires, flooding, rising sea levels, changes in weather patterns, public health threats and economic shifts; and

WHEREAS, over 1,025 mayors have signed The U.S. Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, pledging their commitment to reducing their communities’ greenhouse gas emissions by 7 percent from their 1990 levels; and

WHEREAS, more than 430 local elected leaders from across America have called for additional federal resources for communities to implement greenhouse gas reduction and sustainability initiatives by endorsing the Climate Communities/ICLEI-USA Empowering Local Government Climate Action Blueprint; and

WHEREAS, federal policy must enable and provide resources for local action that is critical to clean energy solutions and global greenhouse gas reductions; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors has established policy on city priorities for the design of a federal cap and trade system to regulate national greenhouse gas emissions, including:

- Setting an economy-wide cap on greenhouse gas emissions that results in real reductions in greenhouse gas emissions consistent with the scientific consensus, or 80 percent reduction below 1990 levels by 2050; and
- Distributing revenues generated by a cap and trade program to recognize the important role that local governments play in climate protection.

WHEREAS, in June 2009, the US House of Representatives passed the American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009, which established a cap on greenhouse gas emissions, and in November 2010 the US Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works passed the Clean Energy Jobs and American Power Act, which provided significant resources for cities to
conserve energy and combat climate change by funding the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program, among other programs important to local governments;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that The US Conference of Mayors calls upon the United States Congress to pass comprehensive clean energy and climate legislation that reduces greenhouse gas emissions;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress, in consideration of the critical role that cities must continue to play in advancing solutions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapting and responding to changing global climate conditions, to include in any final energy and climate legislation:

- Mandatory limits on greenhouse gas emissions, along with market-based trading that allows regulated emitters to invest through carbon offsets in city actions that reduce emissions through green infrastructure, smart growth, energy efficiency, and renewable energy;
- Direct allocation of carbon allowances, auction proceeds, or other sources of revenues to cities for investment in energy conservation and climate mitigation, including funding for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program at the full authorized level;
- Investment of federal transportation dollars directly to local governments to finance initiatives that reduce vehicle-miles traveled, including the continued development of mass transit and passenger rail systems as well as bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure;
- Support for enforcement as well as adoption of local building efficiency standards and codes;
- National building efficiency targets to reduce building energy use, along with annual dedicated funding to help cities meet or exceed national targets;
- Elimination of federal barriers to local efficiency financing programs, including those that use property tax mechanisms to finance upgrades;
- Funding to help local governments facilitate the retooling of closed manufacturing plans and other underutilized sites with businesses that create clean energy jobs in American communities; and
- Strong national energy efficiency and renewable energy standards that will incentivize energy efficiency and the generation of electricity from renewable sources.
SUPPORT FOR THE GREENING OF SCHOOL DISTRICTS

WHEREAS, in 2007 and 2009 The U.S. Conference of Mayors led the green schools movement by passing a seminal resolution to ensure that in a generation every child in America will attend a green school; and

WHEREAS, twenty percent of America - including our students, faculty, staff, and administrators - spends their day in a school building; and

WHEREAS, children in green schools are healthier and more productive because green schools emphasize excellence in areas such as day lighting, thermal comfort, and classroom design -- all of which have been shown to improve children's well-being and ability to learn; and

WHEREAS, the benefits of cleaner indoor air quality -- a key emphasis of green schools -- have been linked to lower asthma rates, fewer allergies, reduced absenteeism, and improved teacher satisfaction; and

WHEREAS, green schools provide a learning experience that transcends the classroom by using the built environment as a context for learning, encouraging environmental literacy and hands-on, project-based learning; and

WHEREAS, greening existing schools using tools like the LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) green building rating system can optimize building performance, resolve operational inefficiencies, and dramatically reduce utility costs; and

WHEREAS, greening existing schools can happen through low or no-cost operations and maintenance improvements, such as implementing water efficiency measures, green cleaning programs, sustainable purchasing practices, recycling and waste reduction initiatives, and energy management plans that can save a school district millions of dollars a year in direct operating expenses; and

WHEREAS, many of the policies, programs, and plans for greening existing schools are most cost-effective and yield the largest operational cost-savings when implemented at the district level; and

WHEREAS, mayors can positively influence construction, operation, and maintenance practices in a school district even if they don’t have direct control over it,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls upon its constituents to partner with their local school districts to implement green initiatives such as appointing sustainability managers, establishing a green advisory team, providing training for municipal and district staff, and adopting policies that call for all district schools to pursue certification through third-party rating systems like LEED; to the extent that local school district are subject to statutory tax caps and/or debt limitations, said caps and/or debt limitations should be waived for projects related to greening school facilities.
ENDORSING THE MAXIMUM ACHIEVABLE BUILDING ENERGY EFFICIENCY IMPROVEMENTS IN THE 2012 INTERNATIONAL ENERGY CONSERVATION CODE

WHEREAS, America’s mayors have long recognized the importance of energy efficiency in the development of a successful national energy policy; and

WHEREAS, homes and commercial buildings are America’s largest energy-consuming sector – using over 40 percent of the nation’s energy and 75 percent of its electricity; and

WHEREAS, the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) is the most widely used model code for residential construction in the U.S., establishing efficiency baselines that are voluntarily adopted by over 40 states; and

WHEREAS, the IECC is currently undergoing a review and revision process of the 2009 IECC, culminating in final votes by ICC Government Members represented by code and other officials from cities, counties and states in the fall of 2010; and

WHEREAS, calls for increasing residential efficiency by 30 percent have been issued by the Western Governors Association, ASHRAE, the U.S. EPA/DOE National Action Plan for Energy Efficiency, the American Institute for Architects, the Business Roundtable and by leaders in Congress from both parties; and

WHEREAS, the broad-based Energy Efficient Codes Coalition has compiled a series of efficiency improvements into a comprehensive package of recommendations known as “The 30% Solution 2012” and submitted it for adoption; and

WHEREAS, support for The 30% Solution 2012 comes from a diverse cross-section of energy efficiency professionals, including the National Association of State Energy Officials, all five regional energy efficiency alliances, the Alliance to Save Energy, the American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy, electric utilities (IOUs, municipal and coops), low income housing advocates, and others; and

WHEREAS, The 30% Solution 2012 incorporates affordable, off the shelf technologies and practices, and studies show these efficiency improvements would enhance the affordability and security of homeownership by generating net positive cash flow for homeowners; and

WHEREAS, at its first round of code development hearings, the IECC Development Committee took significant preliminary steps for energy efficiency, recommending the adoption of proposals that could increase both residential and commercial efficiency of the 2012 IECC by 30% over the baseline 2006 IECC; and

WHEREAS, at its Final Action Hearings this fall in Charlotte, NC the International Code Council (ICC) voting representatives, made up primarily of municipal code officials, will consider these Development Committee recommendations and will vote to establish the 2012 IECC; and
WHEREAS, the nature of the voting membership of the ICC puts mayors in a unique position to encourage the eligible code officials from their cities to participate in the ICC deliberations and vote for the full package of efficiency measure outlined in The 30% Solution 2012; and

WHEREAS, the 2012 IECC will strongly influence efficiency performance in millions of U.S. homes expected to be built in the U.S. until the succeeding 2015 IECC is adopted in 2014, which makes the success of adopting The 30% Solution 2012 critical to reducing these homes energy use over their 70-80 year lives,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors endorses the full adoption of the 30% Solution 2012 at the ICC’s Final Action Hearings this October in Charlotte and encourages municipal support for all eligible code officials to attend these hearings and to vote in favor of the adoption of the 30% Solution 2012.
CALLING ON CONGRESS AND THE ADMINISTRATION TO INCREASE FUNDING FOR THE EPA CLIMATE SHOWCASE GRANTS FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

WHEREAS, commercial, residential and public buildings are responsible for more than 40 percent of the nation’s greenhouse gas emissions nationwide and cities are best suited to improve building codes, foster community-scale renewable energy, and create other programs and incentives to increase efficiency and reduce energy use in commercial and residential buildings; and

WHEREAS, the transportation sector produces one third of the nation’s greenhouse gas emissions and cities can substantially reduce emissions and vehicle-miles traveled by promoting public transit and more effective land use and transportation planning; and

WHEREAS, cities have been laboratories of innovation, successfully pioneering and demonstrating cost-effective clean energy solutions; and

WHEREAS, over 1,025 mayors have signed The U.S. Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, pledging their commitment to reducing their communities’ greenhouse gas emissions by 7 percent from their 1990 levels; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors has endorsed an 80 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from 1990 levels by 2050; and

WHEREAS, more than 430 local elected leaders from across America have called for additional federal resources for communities to implement greenhouse gas reduction and sustainability initiatives by endorsing the Climate Communities/ICLEI-USA Empowering Local Government Climate Action Blueprint; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is authorized under the Clean Air Act, via 42 U.S.C. Section 7403(a) & (b), to make grants to public agencies for demonstration projects to control and prevent air pollution; and

WHEREAS, Congress provided $10 million in both Fiscal Year 2009 and 2010 for the EPA to provide grants to local governments to establish and implement climate change initiatives; and

WHEREAS, this grant program, dubbed by EPA as the ‘Climate Showcase Communities’ program is the only current ongoing source of federal funding that supports city initiatives to address climate change; and

WHEREAS, the Climate Showcase Communities program is one of the federal government’s most competitive grant programs, with funding awarded to less than 6% of Fiscal Year 2009 applicants;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls upon Congress and the Administration to support increased funding for the Climate Showcase Communities program in fiscal year 2011 and in future years.
LOWER ENERGY COSTS, INCREASE JOB GROWTH, REDUCE POLLUTION, AND SAVE WATER A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF APPLIANCE EFFICIENCY STANDARDS

WHEREAS, America’s mayors have long recognized the importance of cost effective energy policy; and

WHEREAS, Economic development, job growth, and climate change issues are at the forefront of city agendas, the importance of energy efficiency standards as a contributing solution should be recognized; and

WHEREAS, appliances and equipment in municipal buildings, courthouses, schools, universities, hospitals, and other public buildings account for a significant portion of a local government’s operating costs; and

WHEREAS, Appliance and equipment efficiency standards are among the most cost effective means of achieving energy and water efficiency, leading to:

• reduced energy bills for residential consumers, businesses, and local governments;
• job growth;
• pollution reduction and improvement in public health;
• improved reliability and reduced demand pressure on energy prices;
• decreased demand on already stressed water supplies; and

WHEREAS, Analysis of Department of Energy (DOE) and independent data by the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy shows that cost effective upgrades to the 20 standards due through January 1, 2013 have the potential to:

  generate net savings for U.S. consumers and businesses of $100 billion through 2030;

WHEREAS, in 2030:

• reduce annual electricity consumption by 135 terawatt hours;
• reduce peak electricity demand by 50,000 megawatts;
• cut annual carbon dioxide emissions by 125 million metric tons;
• decrease annual water consumption by over 400 billion gallons; and

WHEREAS, local governments would realize a proportional share of the national benefits from appliance and equipment efficiency standards; and

WHEREAS, dollars not spent on energy and water costs could be redirected to local economic development and job growth; and

WHEREAS, appliance and equipment standards present an opportunity for local governments to proactively promote healthier cities and local communities,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges the U.S. Department of Energy to expeditiously promulgate and implement new national appliance and equipment standards at the greatest level of cost effective energy and water savings to be
determined on a life-cycle basis and to accelerate completion of those specific new standards which will deliver the largest energy and water savings.
SUPPORT FOR GREEN AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND FINANCING

WHEREAS, our nation’s low-income households spend on average 19.5% of annual income on home energy costs, while the average median-income household spends just 4.6%; and

WHEREAS, the greening of affordable housing will not only lower utility costs for low-income families, but also create healthier, more vibrant home environments for families that live in public housing developments; and

WHEREAS, incorporating green building practices in affordable housing will promote environmentally smart site planning near public transportation and other community resources, energy efficiency, water conservation and the use of environmentally beneficial building materials that foster healthier outdoor and indoor environments; and

WHEREAS, a number of cities, state housing agencies and the federal government have already incorporated green building criteria into their affordable housing programs; and

WHEREAS, many affordable housing developers have already demonstrated that it is possible to build both green and affordable, including over 9,000 affordable units (40%) of the over 22,000 residential units registered with the U.S. Green Building Council’s LEED for Homes Rating System; and

WHEREAS, affordable housing owners have also demonstrated an ability to complete green retrofits where incentivized by HUD, including 80% of private owners in the Mark to Market program electing to pursue HUD’s innovative Green Initiative,

WHEREAS, multi-family revenue bonds issued by states or local housing agencies are subject to annual volume caps per the Tax Reform Act of 1986; said caps should not be applied to multi-family revenue bonds issued for new housing or housing retrofit for energy efficient housing as in states and local laws.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on the Congress to adopt the GREEN Act, the Energy Efficiency in Housing Act or similar legislation that would transform and modernize the U.S. housing market through the use of Energy Efficient Mortgages and Location Efficient Mortgages while ensuring that the benefits of green buildings are accessible to Americans of all income levels through the use of standards and incentives for affordable housing projects, including green building standards for single-family or multi-family structures.
CALLING ON U.S. CITIES TO ADOPT GREEN BUILDING CODES

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors has previously adopted resolutions calling on cities and the federal government to take actions to reduce fossil fuel consumption and global warming pollution through green building code initiatives; and

WHEREAS, the building sector contributes over one third of all global greenhouse gas emissions released into the atmosphere each year and represents the single largest opportunity for deep emission cuts and in the U.S., the building sector accounts for 39% of the nation’s energy use and 72% of U.S. electricity use; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. can save up to $140 billion a year by making our buildings more efficient, while significantly reducing energy and other resource consumption; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors has vowed to work to increase the fossil-fuel reduction standard for all new buildings to carbon neutral by 2030, in the following increments:

- 60% in 2010
- 70% in 2015
- 80% in 2020
- 90% in 2025
- Carbon-neutral by 2030; and

WHEREAS, local governments have long been at the forefront for developing and implementing cutting-edge strategies to improve the health and safety of their communities’ buildings by embracing new green technologies, voluntary, above-code third-party building rating systems like LEED, and mandatory green building codes; and

WHEREAS, voluntary, above-code programs continue to play an important, distinct and complementary role to mandatory green building codes; and

WHEREAS, many local governments have established – or are seeking to establish – performance-based building codes based on voluntary, leadership rating systems such as LEED rather than code-intended regulatory tools; and

WHEREAS, the advances of building sciences have recognized many technologies and methods that yield higher efficiencies, improved health benefits, and increased safety that most building codes do not yet address, creating barriers to smart solutions; and

WHEREAS, the International Code Council, American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers, American Institute of Architects, American Society for Testing and Materials, the Illuminating Engineering Society of North America, and U.S. Green Building Council have collaborated to launch the International Green Construction Code (IGCC) with code-intended Standard 189.1 as an optional path to compliance, both providing a strong starting point for states, localities and other jurisdictions striving to write minimum requirements for building design, construction and operation practices that incorporate an expanded view of safety into building codes,
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by The U.S. Conference of Mayors that they call on all local governments wishing to take a more holistic approach to incorporating energy efficiency in residential and commercial building, sustainable community planning and healthy and safe building practices into the codes to adopt the IGCC and consider its Standard 189.1 compliance path as base code in their jurisdiction.
ENERGY RETROFIT CONSIDERATION IN HOME APPRAISAL PROCESS

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors has expressed strong support for federal efforts to advance energy efficiency; and

WHEREAS, building owners and homeowners across the country recognize that energy efficiency upgrades and investments in renewable energy help them save money on utility bills, stay warm in their homes and offices, and conserve resources; and

WHEREAS, green homes and buildings reduce ongoing costs, create a living and working experience that is highly valued by residents and workers, and improve indoor air quality leading to a reduced incidence of illness; and

WHEREAS, a recent Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors study found that U.S. office buildings with an Energy Star rating attracted rental premiums of 3 percent per square foot compared with nearby non-energy efficient buildings of the same size and function; and

WHEREAS, a 2008 GreenWorks Realty study of home sales in the Pacific Northwest found that environmentally certified homes sold for 4.8 percent more and stayed on the market for 24 percent less time than comparable homes sold in 2007; and

WHEREAS, at this time, most energy efficient features do not get noted in reports or result in an increase to a property’s value, and

WHEREAS, the appraisal industry bases its value determination on market tested values such as location, square footage, and low monthly mortgage payment; and

WHEREAS, the appraisal industry does not currently consider a home or building’s level of energy efficiency and renewable energy investments into the property’s value; and

WHEREAS, the expense and effort undertaken to green homes and buildings should be recognized for the extra value they add to a property and receive credit for the investment; and

WHEREAS, legislation is pending in Congress (H.R. 2336 and S. 1379) that requires consideration of energy efficiency improvements and renewable energy sources in appraisals; and

WHEREAS, the Sustainable Communities Initiative, location-efficient mortgage research, and other agency efforts demonstrate the importance of integrating energy efficiency and sustainability into development planning for our communities;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls upon Congress to pass legislation that requires licensed and certified real estate appraisers to take into consideration any renewable energy sources and energy efficiency or energy-conserving improvements when determining the value of a property; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls upon each federal financial institution regulatory agency to establish standards for performance of real estate appraisals that incorporate renewable energy sources and energy efficiency or energy-conserving improvements; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors will lend its support for appraisal processes across the country that take the energy value of a property into consideration.
SUPPORTING DIESEL CLEAN-UP MEASURES AS A NEAR-TERM CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION STRATEGY

WHEREAS, the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) concludes that "warming of the climate system is unequivocal, as now evident from observations of increases in global average air and ocean temperatures, widespread melting of snow and ice and rising global average sea level;" and

WHEREAS, 1,042 Mayors have joined the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement which, “Urges the federal government and state governments to enact policies and programs to meet or beat the target of reducing global warming pollution levels to 7 percent below 1990 levels by 2012;” and

WHEREAS, black carbon is one of the largest contributing pollutants to global warming about 2000 times more potent than the equivalent amount of CO2 over a 20-year period; and

WHEREAS, the United States has the highest per-capita black carbon emissions in the world, and 57% of U.S. black carbon comes from diesel engines; 41% from on-road diesels and another 16% from off-road diesels; and

WHEREAS, diesel black carbon reductions from U.S. EPA regulations for new on and non-road diesel engines depend on the retirement and replacement of 11 million old diesel engines in the U.S. over the next couple decades, which has slowed further with the economic downturn; and

WHEREAS, climate change strategies that provide near-term mitigation are needed to complement long-term efforts to reduce CO2 emissions; and

WHEREAS, immediate climate benefits from black carbon reductions are possible due to black carbon’s short atmospheric lifetime (days to weeks); and

WHEREAS, retrofitting existing diesel engines with filters is one of the few actions that will have immediate climate benefits; and

WHEREAS, in addition to impacting climate change, diesel emissions cause an estimated 21,000 deaths in the U.S. each year; and

WHEREAS, estimates show that for every dollar spent on reducing PM diesel pollution from engines, $12 would be avoided in health damages; and

WHEREAS, estimates show that investing in diesel pollution clean-up yields jobs, estimated at 19,000 jobs for every $1 billion of investment; and

WHEREAS, the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) has benefitted all 50 states, providing federal funding to each state for diesel pollution reductions; and
WHEREAS, the $300 million available from the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) funds in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 was oversubscribed by five times; and

WHEREAS, municipalities, cities and states across the U.S. have implemented policies to incent or require diesel retrofits, and limit the idling of heavy-duty diesel vehicles in order to reduce diesel pollution to better protect public health and the climate; and,

WHEREAS, to achieve necessary black carbon reductions to help mitigate global warming, additional funding will be critical to retrofit the 11 million “legacy” diesel engines in the U.S.

NOW, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to reauthorize the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act for an additional 5 years, and to seize other opportunities to fund diesel pollution reductions in upcoming climate legislation, transportation legislation and other appropriate legislation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports legislation to reduce black carbon by incentivizing or requiring reductions in black carbon from diesel pollution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports limits on unnecessary idling time for on and non-road diesel engines.
SUPPORT FOR BIOSOLIDS AS A QUALIFYING RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCE

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors national action agenda on Environment and Energy finds that new technology needs to be developed and alternative energy sources need to be promoted in order to help the nation and its metro economies find new ways to strengthen its economy; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors national action agenda on Environment and Energy calls for the establishment of a national renewable portfolio standard to accelerate the development of alternative energy sources; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors adopted at its 77th Annual Meeting a resolution on “FEDERAL POLICY AND LOCAL ENERGY EFFICIENCY, CONSERVATION AND RENEWABLE ENERGY” that supports federal commitments to localized renewable energy production; and

WHEREAS, biosolids and biogas derived from the treatment of municipal wastewater present a significant potential renewable energy source; and

WHEREAS, there are approximately 80,000 public water / wastewater systems in the US that produce over 8 million dry tons of biosolids per year; and

WHEREAS, biosolids and biogas derived from the treatment of municipal wastewater provide cities with new opportunities to supply renewable energy fuel or power to electric utilities; and

WHEREAS, the opportunities for creating renewable energy from biosolids and biogas derived from the treatment of municipal wastewater operations are especially valuable to municipally owned electric utilities where synergies exist with municipally owned electric and wastewater operations; and

WHEREAS, current federal renewable energy definitions for qualifying renewable energy resources do not include biosolids or biogas; and

WHEREAS, leading legislative vehicles in Congress that are seeking to establish a federal renewable electricity standard also do not sufficiently recognize biosolids or biogas derived from the treatment of municipal wastewater present as qualifying renewable energy resources; and

WHEREAS, because of these oversights, the energy production potential of biosolids and biogas derived from the treatment of municipal wastewater are not fully realized; and

WHEREAS, if Congress were to recognize this renewable energy potential, biosolids and biogas derived from the treatment of municipal wastewater could benefit our communities and nation as a sustainable, renewable energy resources, instead of being disposed of as waste,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors call on Congress to include biosolids and biogas derived from the treatment of municipal wastewater as a qualifying renewable resource under any Federal Renewable Electricity Standard.
SUPPORTING FINANCIAL PRESCRIPTIONS FOR ENERGY RETROFITS OF EXISTING BUILDINGS

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors has previously adopted resolutions calling on cities and the federal government to take actions to reduce fossil fuel consumption and global warming pollution; and

WHEREAS, the building sector contributes over one third of all global greenhouse gas emissions released into the atmosphere each year and represents the single largest, most accessible opportunity for deep emission cuts and in the U.S., the building sector accounts for 39% of the nation’s energy use and 72% of U.S. electricity use; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. can save up to $140 billion a year by making our buildings more efficient, while significantly reducing energy and other resource consumption; and

WHEREAS, today’s buildings will constitute a majority of all buildings in the U.S. in 2050 and without a focused effort to reduce retrofit existing buildings and make them more resource efficient, it will be virtually impossible to meet the greenhouse gas emission reduction targets called for in The U.S. Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the large-scale retrofitting of existing buildings will spur job formation resulting in green careers; and

WHEREAS, Energy Financing Districts (Property-Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) and Benefit-Assessed Clean Energy (BACE), Clean Energy Assessment Districts (CEAD), Contractual Assessments, Sustainable Energy Financing, or Special Tax Districts) provide a means for cities to offer financing for commercial or residential energy efficiency retrofits.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls upon state legislatures who have not already done so to adopt enabling legislation to allow for Energy Financing Districts to be established in their states and encourages members of The U.S. Conference of Mayors to use Energy Financing Districts as a means to finance the retrofitting of existing buildings.
ENIRONMENT COMMITTEE

SUPPORTING FULL AND DEDICATED FUNDING OF THE ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND CONSERVATION BLOCK GRANTS

WHEREAS, the nation faces unprecedented energy challenges, including rapidly escalating energy costs, over dependence on foreign sources of energy, and critical choices about energy resources that will affect the nation's future economic well-being and security; and

WHEREAS, ongoing federal investment in energy efficiency and renewable energy is critical to positioning America to be competitive in the global economy, increase American energy independence, build livable and sustainable communities, drive investment in new, clean energy solutions and create new, local jobs, aiding in our national economic recovery; and

WHEREAS, commercial, residential and public buildings are responsible for more than 40 percent of the nation’s energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions and cities are best suited to improve and enforce building codes, foster community-scale renewable energy, and create other programs and incentives to increase efficiency and reduce energy use in commercial and residential buildings; and

WHEREAS, the transportation sector produces one third of the nation’s greenhouse gas emissions and cities can substantially reduce emissions and vehicle-miles traveled by promoting public transit and more effective land use and transportation planning; and

WHEREAS, cities have been laboratories of innovation, successfully pioneering and demonstrating cost-effective clean energy solutions, including increasing energy efficiency for public and private buildings, encouraging energy independence through the use of alternative energy sources, switching their fleets to alternative fuels and more fuel efficient vehicles; and building alternative infrastructure to encourage their citizens to utilize other forms of greener transportation; and

WHEREAS, local governments have also implemented programs that reduce greenhouse gas emissions through reutilization of resources, reduction of energy consumption, and improving the environment through waste reduction and recycling programs, encouraging waste-to-energy technology, and capturing methane in landfills; and

WHEREAS, over 1,025 mayors have signed The U.S. Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, pledging their commitment to reducing their communities’ greenhouse gas emissions by 7 percent from their 1990 levels; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors has endorsed a national goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 80 percent from 1990 levels by 2050; and

WHEREAS, more than 430 local elected leaders from across America have called for additional federal resources for communities to implement greenhouse gas reduction and sustainability
initiatives by endorsing the Climate Communities/ICLEI-USA Empowering Local Government Climate Action Blueprint; and

WHEREAS, successful local government programs could be expanded or replicated throughout the country, thereby resulting in nationwide reductions in energy use which will increase our nation's energy independence and competitiveness while improving our national and global environment; and

WHEREAS, many cities are not able to expand or implement the full range of these types of programs due to budgetary constraints; and

WHEREAS, the federal government, by supporting these types of local activities, would demonstrate its commitment to help solve some of the most important issues facing the nation - energy independence, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and improving the environment; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors has previously conceived and called for the creation of an Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program that would provide money directly to city, county and state governments to implement innovative energy saving and environmental strategies; and

WHEREAS, the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (P. L.110-140) established a new Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program at the U. S. Department of Energy, authorizing $2 billion annually over five fiscal years in formula grants to cities, counties, and states to develop energy efficiency strategies to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA), a law established to stimulate the economy and create over three million jobs, provided $3.2 billion for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant programs to develop and implement energy efficiency programs in their communities; and

WHEREAS, local governments are successfully utilizing their ARRA Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant funds to implement local strategies that create jobs, save energy, promote renewable sources, and cut greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, cities would benefit from knowing that a dedicated funding mechanism has been established for the EECBG to help them create better short and long term energy efficiency and conservation strategies in their communities; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on Congress and the Administration to appropriate full funding for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program in Fiscal year 2011, while supporting higher authorization levels in future years.
CALLING ON CONGRESS TO PASS COMPREHENSIVE CLEAN ENERGY AND CLIMATE PROTECTION LEGISLATION

WHEREAS, comprehensive federal clean energy and climate policy is critical to positioning this country to be competitive in the global economy, increase American energy independence, build livable and sustainable communities, drive investment in new, clean energy solutions and create new, local jobs, aiding in our national economic recovery; and

WHEREAS, commercial and residential buildings produce more than 40 percent of the nation’s greenhouse gas emissions, and cities are best suited to improve building codes, foster community-scale renewable energy and create other incentives to increase efficiency and reduce energy use in buildings and house; and

WHEREAS, the transportation sector produces one third of the nation’s greenhouse gas emissions and cities can significantly mitigate these emissions through enhanced public transit and more effective land use and transportation planning; and

WHEREAS, cities are also the first responders to the impacts of climate change, including drought, heat waves, wildfires, flooding, rising sea levels, changes in weather patterns, public health threats and economic shifts; and

WHEREAS, over 1,025 mayors have signed The U.S. Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, pledging their commitment to reducing their communities’ greenhouse gas emissions by 7 percent from their 1990 levels; and

WHEREAS, more than 430 local elected leaders from across America have called for additional federal resources for communities to implement greenhouse gas reduction and sustainability initiatives by endorsing the Climate Communities/ICLEI-USA Empowering Local Government Climate Action Blueprint; and

WHEREAS, federal policy must enable and provide resources for local action that is critical to clean energy solutions and global greenhouse gas reductions; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors has established policy on city priorities for the design of a federal cap and trade system to regulate national greenhouse gas emissions, including:
Setting an economy-wide cap on greenhouse gas emissions that results in real reductions in greenhouse gas emissions consistent with the scientific consensus, or 80 percent reduction below 1990 levels by 2050; and
Distributing revenues generated by a cap and trade program to recognize the important role that local governments play in climate protection.

WHEREAS, in June 2009, the US House of Representatives passed the American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009, which established a cap on greenhouse gas emissions, and in November 2010 the US Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works passed the Clean Energy Jobs and American Power Act, which provided significant resources for cities to
conserve energy and combat climate change by funding the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program, among other programs important to local governments; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the US Conference of Mayors calls upon the United States Congress to pass comprehensive clean energy and climate legislation that reduces greenhouse gas emissions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the US Conference of Mayors urges Congress, in consideration of the critical role that cities must continue to play in advancing solutions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapting and responding to changing global climate conditions, to include in any final energy and climate legislation:

- Mandatory limits on greenhouse gas emissions, along with market-based trading that allows regulated emitters to invest through carbon offsets in city actions that reduce emissions through green infrastructure, smart growth, energy efficiency, and renewable energy;
- Direct allocation of carbon allowances, auction proceeds, or other sources of revenues to cities for investment in energy conservation and climate mitigation, including funding for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program at the full authorized level;
- Investment of federal transportation dollars directly to local governments to finance initiatives that reduce vehicle-miles traveled, including the continued development of mass transit and passenger rail systems as well as bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure;
- Support for enforcement as well as adoption of local building efficiency standards and codes;
- National building efficiency targets to reduce building energy use, along with annual dedicated funding to help cities meet or exceed national targets;
- Elimination of federal barriers to local efficiency financing programs, including those that use property tax mechanisms to finance upgrades;
- Funding to help local governments facilitate the retooling of closed manufacturing plans and other underutilized sites with businesses that create clean energy jobs in American communities; and
- Strong national energy efficiency and renewable energy standards that will incentivize energy efficiency and the generation of electricity from renewable sources.
CALLING ON CONGRESS AND THE ADMINISTRATION TO INCREASE FUNDING
FOR THE EPA CLIMATE SHOWCASE GRANTS FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

WHEREAS, commercial, residential and public buildings are responsible for more than 40 percent of the nation’s greenhouse gas emissions nationwide and cities are best suited to improve building codes, foster community-scale renewable energy, and create other programs and incentives to increase efficiency and reduce energy use in commercial and residential buildings; and

WHEREAS, the transportation sector produces one third of the nation’s greenhouse gas emissions and cities can substantially reduce emissions and vehicle-miles traveled by promoting public transit and more effective land use and transportation planning; and

WHEREAS, cities have been laboratories of innovation, successfully pioneering and demonstrating cost-effective clean energy solutions; and

WHEREAS, over 1,025 mayors have signed The U.S. Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, pledging their commitment to reducing their communities’ greenhouse gas emissions by 7 percent from their 1990 levels; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors has endorsed an 80 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from 1990 levels by 2050; and

WHEREAS, more than 430 local elected leaders from across America have called for additional federal resources for communities to implement greenhouse gas reduction and sustainability initiatives by endorsing the Climate Communities/ICLEI-USA Empowering Local Government Climate Action Blueprint; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is authorized under the Clean Air Act, via 42 U.S.C. Section 7403(a) & (b), to make grants to public agencies for demonstration projects to control and prevent air pollution; and

WHEREAS, Congress provided $10 million in both Fiscal Year 2009 and 2010 for the EPA to provide grants to local governments to establish and implement climate change initiatives; and

WHEREAS, this grant program, dubbed by EPA as the ‘Climate Showcase Communities’ program is the only current ongoing source of federal funding that supports city initiatives to address climate change; and

WHEREAS, the Climate Showcase Communities program is one of the federal government’s most competitive grant programs, with funding awarded to less than 6% of Fiscal Year 2009 applicants; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the US Conference of Mayors calls upon Congress and the Administration to support increased funding for the Climate Showcase Communities program in Fiscal Year 2011 and in future years.
WHEREAS, in 2007 and 2009 The U.S. Conference of Mayors led the green schools movement by passing a seminal resolution to ensure that in a generation every child in America will attend a green school; and

WHEREAS, twenty percent of America - including our students, faculty, staff, and administrators - spends their day in a school building; and

WHEREAS, children in green schools are healthier and more productive because green schools emphasize excellence in areas such as day lighting, thermal comfort, and classroom design -- all of which have been shown to improve children's well-being and ability to learn; and

WHEREAS, the benefits of cleaner indoor air quality -- a key emphasis of green schools -- have been linked to lower asthma rates, fewer allergies, reduced absenteeism, and improved teacher satisfaction; and

WHEREAS, green schools provide a learning experience that transcends the classroom by using the built environment as a context for learning, encouraging environmental literacy and hands-on, project-based learning; and

WHEREAS, greening existing schools using tools like the LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) green building rating system can optimize building performance, resolve operational inefficiencies, and dramatically reduce utility costs; and

WHEREAS, greening existing schools can happen through low or no-cost operations and maintenance improvements, such as implementing water efficiency measures, green cleaning programs, sustainable purchasing practices, recycling and waste reduction initiatives, and energy management plans that can save a school district millions of dollars a year in direct operating expenses; and

WHEREAS, many of the policies, programs, and plans for greening existing schools are most cost-effective and yield the largest operational cost-savings when implemented at the district level; and

WHEREAS, mayors can positively influence construction, operation, and maintenance practices in a school district even if they don’t have direct control over it; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls upon its constituents to partner with their local school districts to implement green initiatives such as appointing sustainability managers, establishing a green advisory team, providing training for municipal and district staff, and adopting policies that call for all district schools to pursue certification through third-party rating systems like LEED; to the extent that local school districts are subject to statutory tax caps and/or debt limitations, said caps and/or debt limitations should be waived for projects related to greening school facilities.
SUPPORTING DIESEL CLEAN-UP MEASURES AS A NEAR-TERM CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION STRATEGY

WHEREAS, the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) concludes that "warming of the climate system is unequivocal, as now evident from observations of increases in global average air and ocean temperatures, widespread melting of snow and ice and rising global average sea level;" and

WHEREAS, 1,026 Mayors have joined the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement which, “Urges the federal government and state governments to enact policies and programs to meet or beat the target of reducing global warming pollution levels to 7 percent below 1990 levels by 2012;” and

WHEREAS, black carbon is one of the largest contributing pollutants to global warming about 2000 times more potent than the equivalent amount of CO2 over a 20-year period; and

WHEREAS, the United States has the highest per-capita black carbon emissions in the world, and 57% of U.S. black carbon comes from diesel engines; 41% from on-road diesels and another 16% from off-road diesels; and

WHEREAS, diesel black carbon reductions from U.S. EPA regulations for new on and non-road diesel engines depend on the retirement and replacement of 11 million old diesel engines in the U.S. over the next couple decades, which has slowed further with the economic downturn; and

WHEREAS, climate change strategies that provide near-term mitigation are needed to complement long-term efforts to reduce CO2 emissions; and

WHEREAS, immediate climate benefits from black carbon reductions are possible due to black carbon’s short atmospheric lifetime (days to weeks); and

WHEREAS, retrofitting existing diesel engines with filters is one of the few actions that will have immediate climate benefits; and

WHEREAS, in addition to impacting climate change, diesel emissions cause an estimated 21,000 deaths in the U.S. each year; and

WHEREAS, estimates show that for every dollar spent on reducing PM diesel pollution from engines, $12 would be avoided in health damages; and

WHEREAS, estimates show that investing in diesel pollution clean-up yields jobs, estimated at 19,000 jobs for every $1 billion of investment; and

WHEREAS, the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) has benefitted all 50 states, providing federal funding to each state for diesel pollution reductions; and
WHEREAS, the $300 million available from the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) funds in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 was oversubscribed by five times; and

WHEREAS, municipalities, cities and states across the U.S. have implemented policies to incent or require diesel retrofits, and limit the idling of heavy-duty diesel vehicles in order to reduce diesel pollution to better protect public health and the climate; and,

WHEREAS, to achieve necessary black carbon reductions to help mitigate global warming, additional funding will be critical to retrofit the 11 million “legacy” diesel engines in the U.S.

NOW, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to reauthorize the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act for an additional 5 years, and to seize other opportunities to fund diesel pollution reductions in upcoming climate legislation, transportation legislation and other appropriate legislation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports legislation to reduce black carbon by incentivizing or requiring reductions in black carbon from diesel pollution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports limits on unnecessary idling time for on and non-road diesel engines.
LOWER ENERGY COSTS, INCREASE JOB GROWTH, REDUCE POLLUTION, AND SAVE WATER A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF APPLIANCE EFFICIENCY STANDARDS

WHEREAS, America’s mayors have long recognized the importance of cost effective energy policy; and

WHEREAS, Economic development, job growth, and climate change issues are at the forefront of city agendas, the importance of energy efficiency standards as a contributing solution should be recognized; and

WHEREAS, appliances and equipment in municipal buildings, courthouses, schools, universities, hospitals, and other public buildings account for a significant portion of a local government’s operating costs; and

WHEREAS, Appliance and equipment efficiency standards are among the most cost effective means of achieving energy and water efficiency, leading to:

• reduced energy bills for residential consumers, businesses, and local governments;
• job growth;
• pollution reduction and improvement in public health;
• improved reliability and reduced demand pressure on energy prices;
• decreased demand on already stressed water supplies; and

WHEREAS, Analysis of Department of Energy (DOE) and independent data by the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy shows that cost effective upgrades to the 20 standards due through January 1, 2013 have the potential to generate net savings for U.S. consumers and businesses of $100 billion through 2030;

WHEREAS, in 2030:

• reduce annual electricity consumption by 135 terawatt hours;
• reduce peak electricity demand by 50,000 megawatts;
• cut annual carbon dioxide emissions by 125 million metric tons;
• decrease annual water consumption by over 400 billion gallons; and

WHEREAS, local governments would realize a proportional share of the national benefits from appliance and equipment efficiency standards; and

WHEREAS, dollars not spent on energy and water costs could be redirected to local economic development and job growth; and

WHEREAS, appliance and equipment standards present an opportunity for local governments to proactively promote healthier cities and local communities,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges the U.S. Department of Energy to expeditiously promulgate and implement new national appliance and equipment standards at the greatest level of cost effective energy and water savings to be
determined on a life-cycle basis and to accelerate completion of those specific new standards which will deliver the largest energy and water savings
SUPPORT FOR BIOSOLIDS AS A QUALIFYING RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCE

WHEREAS, the US Conference of Mayors national action agenda on Environment and Energy finds that new technology needs to be developed and alternative energy sources need to be promoted in order to help the nation and its metro economies find new ways to strengthen its economy; and

WHEREAS, the US Conference of Mayors national action agenda on Environment and Energy calls for the establishment of a national renewable portfolio standard to accelerate the development of alternative energy sources; and

WHEREAS, the US Conference of Mayors adopted at its 77th Annual Meeting a resolution on “FEDERAL POLICY AND LOCAL ENERGY EFFICIENCY, CONSERVATION AND RENEWABLE ENERGY” that supports federal commitments to localized renewable energy production; and

WHEREAS, biosolids and biogas derived from the treatment of municipal wastewater present a significant potential renewable energy source; and

WHEREAS, there are approximately 80,000 public water / wastewater systems in the US that produce over 8 million dry tons of biosolids per year; and

WHEREAS, biosolids and biogas derived from the treatment of municipal wastewater provide cities with new opportunities to supply renewable energy fuel or power to electric utilities; and

WHEREAS, the opportunities for creating renewable energy from biosolids and biogas derived from the treatment of municipal wastewater operations are especially valuable to municipally owned electric utilities where synergies exist with municipally owned electric and wastewater operations; and

WHEREAS, current federal renewable energy definitions for qualifying renewable energy resources do not include biosolids or biogas; and

WHEREAS, leading legislative vehicles in Congress that are seeking to establish a federal renewable electricity standard also do not sufficiently recognize biosolids or biogas derived from the treatment of municipal wastewater present as qualifying renewable energy resources; and

WHEREAS, because of these oversights, the energy production potential of biosolids and biogas derived from the treatment of municipal wastewater are not fully realized; and

WHEREAS, if Congress were to recognize this renewable energy potential, biosolids and biogas derived from the treatment of municipal wastewater could benefit our communities and nation as a sustainable, renewable energy resources, instead of being disposed of as waste,
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the US Conference of Mayors call on Congress to include biosolids and biogas derived from the treatment of municipal wastewater as a qualifying renewable resource under any Federal Renewable Electricity Standard.
DESIGNATING WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES

WHEREAS, it should be recognized that the implementation of the Clean Water Act has had dramatically positive results in improving public waters. These improvements have come from actions and expenditures by federal, state and local governments and by private sector actions and investments, with the predominance of those actions and expenditures in the past two decades being made by local governments and their rate payers; and

WHEREAS, it should be recognized that these results have occurred under the current language in the law that respects exclusive state authority over non-navigable, isolated, intrastate waters and the adjacent land by including a distinction between waters that are navigable and those that are not; and

WHEREAS, it is recognized that Congress adopts laws within the bounds of the Constitution, and the Federal government promulgates regulations according to the Administrative Procedures Act, to protect citizens, property and the natural resources and the environment; and

WHEREAS, it is a longstanding principle of American government that the Constitution enumerates the powers of the Federal government, and those powers that are not enumerated reside in the sovereign powers of the States of the Union; and

WHEREAS, there is legislation pending in Congress that would substantially increase the scope of existing law and regulation by expanding Federal jurisdiction under the Clean Water Act to encompass all interstate and intrastate waters and impose significant and unknown costs on both the public and private sectors; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors opposes legislation to expand Federal jurisdiction under the Clean Water Act. However if the pending legislation is approved by congress, the USCM resolves that the costs incurred in its implementation are born solely and entirely by the Federal government and its agencies and not levied as an unfunded mandate on the public and private sectors, and.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors supports inclusion of a provision in the proposed legislation that directs the Environmental Protection Agency to conduct an analysis of every regulation proposed under the authority of an expanded Clean Water Act to determine the cost of every regulation before it is promulgated, and to confer with state and local government to review such analyses, before promulgation, and secure Congressional appropriations to be disbursed directly to state and local government to pay for the costs imposed by any regulation thereof before such regulations are to be in effect.
AMERICA'S PRINCIPAL CITIES COMMITMENT TO CLEAN WATER GOALS

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors and the Mayors of this nation have a long history of support for the goals of the Clean Water Act (CWA) and the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) and other water related policy; and

WHEREAS, Implementation of actions and efforts to achieve these goals in practice occur at the local level, and not in the Congress or the offices of Federal Agencies; and

WHEREAS, Local government has dedicated over $1.6 trillion dollars to achieve these goals over the last 50 years; and

WHEREAS, By virtue of these actions, efforts, and expenditures, local governments are in reality the actual and most effective 'Environmental Stewards' of the nation's water resources; and

WHEREAS, Many of the cities involved in these actions are currently involved in planning and implementing wet weather overflow control strategies applicable to Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs) and Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSOs) to reduce and minimize impacts on public health, critical wildlife habitats, and aquatic species; and

WHEREAS, In the last several years, enforcement actions brought against cities have resulted in overly costly wet weather overflow control strategies that are not reasonably related to their environmental benefits; and,

WHEREAS, The settlements of these enforcement actions are essentially unfunded federal mandates; and

WHEREAS, Cities fully expect that future local government expenditures to protect water resources and provide safe, affordable and adequate water and wastewater services and infrastructure will double to quadruple over the next 20 years; and

WHEREAS, Recognizing that additional federal unfunded mandates related to water quality are imminent; and

WHEREAS, It is prudent for Cities and for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) and the U.S. Department of Justice (U.S. DOJ) to exercise prudence and due diligence in developing agreements relating to CSO and SSO controls, considering the cost and long term debt that will be borne by local government; and

WHEREAS, The current U.S. EPA CSO Control Policy contains several opportunities to exercise flexibility in Long Term Control Plans (LTCP) that are the result of public and stakeholder input when the CSO Control Policy was developed by the U.S. EPA; and

WHEREAS, Many cities involved in negotiations with U.S. DOJ and U.S. EPA have experienced a general unwillingness on the part of U.S. EPA and U.S. DOJ to exercise the flexibility currently contained in the CSO Control Policy; and
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, The United States Conference of Mayors should pursue, and participate in, a dialogue with the U.S. DOJ and the U.S. EPA to urge both agencies to work with the Conference of Mayors and for the Assistant Attorney General for Environment and Natural Resources and the Administrator of the U.S. EPA to provide guidance to U.S. DOJ attorneys and the U.S. EPA Regional Offices to exercise, to the fullest extent, the flexibility currently included in the CSO Control Policy in all matters concerning CSO controls and to exercise similar flexibility relating to SSO controls; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Conference of Mayors address the following areas of concern (and other relevant concerns) in CSO and SSO control negotiations: financial capability; Green Infrastructure; front-end loading benefits and extension of compliance schedules; and, carbon footprint considerations; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Conference of Mayors urge Congress to recognize the importance of American cities' commitment to clean water goals, and to urge Congress to authorize and appropriate $30 to $100 billion in direct grants to cities to achieve the control plans necessary to reduce and minimize the impact of wet weather overflows; and to coordinate and phase the investment to coincide with the regulatory requirement to make the Investment with the availability of the grants to cities.
ALIGNING FEDERAL POLICY ON FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE, AND SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

WHEREAS, in 1977, President Carter issued Executive Order 11988 “in order to avoid to the extent possible the long and short term adverse impacts associated with the occupancy and modification of floodplains.” and the Order directed all federal agencies to exercise judgment in seeking to reduce flood damage, and impacts to floodplains, by not issuing permits or providing funds for floodplain development where practicable alternatives existed; and

WHEREAS, the Order defines a “floodplain” as “the lowland and relatively flat areas adjoining inland and coastal waters, including flood prone areas of offshore land, including at a minimum, that area subject to a one percent or greater chance of flooding in any given year.” Thus, the Order creates a simple line between the activities that occur out of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (“FEMA”) regulated floodplain (these activities are not affected) and activities that occur within the FEMA regulated floodplain (these activities are affected); and

WHEREAS, in the 1970s, most significant flood protection facilities were constructed by the Army Corps of Engineers (“Corps”) which, recognizing FEMA’s use of the 100 year floodplain as relevant for development restrictions, were designed to provide at least 100 year flood protection; and

WHEREAS, once these projects were constructed by the Corps, it was assumed that the protected community would continue to enjoy at least 100 year flood protection, and the restrictive power of the Order would not apply to these existing urban communities; and

WHEREAS, new data and new understandings of levee failure mechanisms, coupled with historic storms, have caused the federal agencies to reclassify urban areas, formerly with at least 100 years flood protection, to now having less than 100 year flood protection; and

WHEREAS, beginning in 2008, a working group of staff from the Corps and FEMA developed a draft update to the Order which reiterates the policies of the Order and further seeks to impose more rigorous standards on Federal agencies’ attempted implementation of the Order; and

WHEREAS, decertification of urban areas coupled with a more stringent Order could result in severe new restrictions on Federal spending and permits in existing urban areas, including limitations on the ability of new homeowners to take advantage of HUD loans; and

WHEREAS, application of the Order has the potential to push people out of the dense urban core of many regions and into remote suburban areas, often located in uplands and foothills, because these upland and foothill areas do not have the limitations associated with communities at risk of flood; and

WHEREAS, this induced change in land use and transportation runs exactly counter to the Sustainable Communities Initiative and other related federal policies, and to municipal, regional, state, and federal efforts to significantly reduce the emission of greenhouse gases; and
WHEREAS, the nation and its cities will be unable to meet their greenhouse gas reduction targets if floodplain restrictions preclude federal investment in existing urban areas in 500-year floodplains; and

WHEREAS, in the Sacramento region, for example, the sustainable urban-centered growth strategy directs most growth to the urban floodplain and thereby (1) reduces overall land consumption in the floodplain by 90,000 acres by shifting from 42% to 12% greenfield development, (2) reduces per capita vehicle miles traveled and per capita greenhouse emissions, (3) reduces population and land consumption in the upper watershed and near wetlands and vernal pools, and (4) reduces water consumption; and

WHEREAS, with decertification of levees by the Corps also comes de-accreditation of those same levees by FEMA under the National Flood Insurance Program (“NFIP”). The NFIP requires that FEMA designate lands according to the risk of flooding. Zone X is applied to lands that have at least 100 year flood protection (protection from the “base flood”). When lands do not have at least 100 year flood protection, those lands are typically placed into an AE Zone, at which time new building construction cannot occur unless structures are elevated above the 100 year floodplain. However, the AE Zone limits the ability of local communities to collect development fees on new structures, thus eliminating a key funding stream for flood protection improvements; and

WHEREAS, the NFIP special flood hazard zones that would best acknowledge the decreased level of flood protection but still allow additional funding for levee improvements are A99 and AR, which allow limited building coupled with good floodplain management practices. However, the criteria to meet eligibility for these zones have been narrowly interpreted to largely only apply to flood improvement projects authorized and funded by the Federal Government, thus limiting their application and delaying many regions in their goal of reducing flood risk through flood protection improvements. This distinction between federal and non-federal authorization and funding is a relic of the era when the Federal Government was the only entity that could reliably construct flood protection projects; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that, the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges the President to expressly align federal policy on floodplain management, including Executive Order 11988, regulations implementing the National Flood Insurance Program, and the National Objectives, Principles, and Standards for Water and Related Resources, with the Administration’s policy initiatives on Climate Change and Sustainable Communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, the U.S. Conference of Mayors opposes the adoption of federal policies that would disinvest in existing urbanized areas within floodplains or reverse state and regional efforts to promote more sustainable land use and transportation patterns which reduce greenhouse gas emissions by directing new growth to those existing urbanized areas; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, the U.S. Conference of Mayors calls for modernization of the AR and A99 Special Flood Hazard Zones under the National Flood Insurance Program consistent with the following principles: (i) for A99 Zones, to clarify that the A99 Zone designation is available to communities without respect to the level of Federal investment or participation in the improvements and to clarify the methodology for meeting the 50%
completion requirement and 50% expenditure requirement by recognizing the value that the existing levees contribute toward the cost of achieving base flood protection; and (ii) for AR Zones, to establish equitable timeframes for completing levee restoration for an AR Zone so that local communities have the same 10 years offered for projects constructed by the Corps and to create alternative methodologies, such as certification by a professional engineer with peer review, for demonstrating the minimum qualification criteria of at least 33-year protection.
RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE CREATION OF SPECIAL PURPOSE CORPORATIONS OWNED BY MUNICIPAL OR OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES THAT WOULD ALLOW MINORITY EQUITY INVESTMENT BY PRIVATE SECTOR INVESTORS

WHEREAS, the US Conference of Mayors and the Mayors Water Council recognize that the cost of replacing or improving the nation’s water and wastewater infrastructure are expected to exceed a Trillion Dollars over the next twenty years in order to comply with the Clean Water Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act; and

WHEREAS, the effects of a worldwide recession, its impact on economic conditions in the United States, including its banking and other credit institutions have resulted in a severe decline in the ability of cities to issue debt securities; and

WHEREAS, Federal and State financial support of municipal water and wastewater rebuilding program (through municipal participation in SRF, grants, stimulus or other programs) that have been under consideration for a very long time, will continue to decline as Federal and State governments balance their responsibilities for other national infrastructure needs, national healthcare reform and continued support of national defense initiatives; and

WHEREAS, most municipalities will be unable to raise sufficient capital through the issuance of debt instruments alone to rebuild the assets to achieve compliance with the Water Acts or replace compliant assets that are simply no longer efficient; and

Whereas, the US Conference of Mayors and the Mayors Water Council recognize that considerable (estimated to be in the Billions of Dollars) private equity investment funds, and municipal and other government-owned pension plans, have a strong desire to invest in municipal water and wastewater infrastructure and would benefit from the income stream generated by the fees charged for these services; and

WHEREAS the capital structure of most municipal-owned utilities is weighted heavily by equity capital that provides little benefit to a municipality when seeking favorable credit ratings, and is in great contrast to investor-owned utilities’ capital structure, including investor-owned water and wastewater utilities; and

WHEREAS, there is a beneficial opportunity for municipalities to monetize a portion of the excess equity they possess to either invest in their asset rebuilding program, or utilize proceeds to fund structural budget deficits; and

WHEREAS, there does not exist today an approved organizational structure that would permit an equity investment by a third party to form a true partnership in joint ownership with a municipally-controlled business enterprise such as a water or wastewater utility; and

WHEREAS, the US Conference of Mayors and the Mayors Water Council recognize that there are both Federal tax law barriers as well as State law barriers (that vary by state) which may need to be amended in order to permit the creation of a true sharing of municipal and private equity ownership (CAPES Model 1); and
WHEREAS the creation of such new organizational structure would neither increase nor decrease Federal revenues resulting from existing tax law or application of the tax code; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the US Conference of Mayors urges the Congress of the United States to amend its tax codes and other regulations and encourage state legislatures to adopt legislation that would allow municipalities to create special purpose corporations for purposes of owning and operating its water and wastewater systems and that would further:

- Allow a municipality the right to sell up to 49% of the equity interest in the corporation to third party investors, including government owned pension plans
- Allow the transfer of all regulatory responsibilities, including wastewater effluent discharge permits and clean water withdrawal permits, including compliance with other regulatory orders or court mandated compliances, to the new corporation
- Grant the corporation’s the right to issue tax exempt debt, participate in SRF programs and other benefits from acts of Congress providing direct benefits to the sponsoring municipality.
- CAPES – City and Private Equity Sharing.
CALLING FOR A COORDINATED NATIONAL STRATEGY TO PROTECT PUBLIC HEALTH, ENDANGERED SPECIES AND CRITICAL HABITATS BY PROVIDING NEEDED WATER AND WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors has previously adopted strong policy resolutions calling for cities, communities and the federal government to take actions to reduce the use of our precious natural resources and reduce our carbon footprint; and

WHEREAS, even though 2/3rds of the earth is covered with water, less than one percent (1%) of the water is drinkable: 96.5% is Ocean Water, 1.7% is frozen in Polar Ice, 1% of freshwater is too brackish to drink, and 0.8% can be found in our lakes/rivers/wetlands/in the ground and in the atmosphere; and

WHEREAS, A recent EPA survey showed that at least 36 states are anticipating local, regional or statewide water shortages by 2013; and

WHEREAS, Pharmaceuticals and Personal Care Products as Pollutants (PPCPs) are found in any water body influenced by raw or treated sewage, including rivers, streams, ground water, coastal marine environments, and many drinking water sources and have been identified in most places sampled; and

WHEREAS, The nexus of energy and water is critical: a single 60 WATT light bulb that burns for 12 hours per day requires 3,000 to 6,300 gallons of water per year to produce the energy needed; and it takes 1.5 gallons of water to extract and refine one gallon of oil and gas, 4 gallons of water to process one gallon of biofuel (grain alcohol), 980 gallons to irrigate corn to produce one gallon of corn ethanol, 4.5-9 gallons for processing coal to liquid synthetic fuel; and

WHEREAS, The US water infrastructure consists of approximately 54,000 drinking water systems with 700,000 miles of pipe, and 17,000 wastewater treatment plants using 800,000 miles of pipe; and

WHEREAS, Local Government has spent $1.6 trillion on public water and wastewater services and infrastructure ($93 billion on water and wastewater systems in 2008 alone); and

WHEREAS, Local Government spending on public water and wastewater doubled five times from 1956 through 2008, while GDP doubled only four times during the same time-period; and

WHEREAS, the projected cost to Local Government to maintain water and wastewater infrastructure in compliance with existing law is between $2.5 trillion and $4.8 trillion over the next 20 years (dependent upon assumptions regarding population growth, replacement of treatment works, requirement for more advanced levels of energy intensive water treatment technology to address water contaminants, reuse of wastewater, recovery of brackish water, and impacts of climate change); and

WHEREAS, Water and wastewater infrastructure in America suffers from the lack of a coordinated and integrated National Strategy, resulting in the pending inevitable failure of national water system, and threatening the health of the American people. Rather than providing
leadership, Congress and the federal government have essentially abandoned providing meaningful financial assistance to Local Government, and instead, authorized and implemented a costly and increasing wave of mandates with no consideration of the financial ability of communities to finance the mandates, and with no consideration of the extent of long-term indebtedness of cities; and

WHEREAS, Current federal policy fails to target financial assistance to the very metro-urban areas that the national economy depends on for employment and wealth creation; and

WHEREAS, One of the biggest impediments to renewing our national public water and wastewater infrastructure is the lack of precision in our understanding of who is paying how much, and for what; and

WHEREAS, A National Strategy requires an accurate accounting of what percent of societal resources are now devoted to public water and wastewater, as well as how much of societal resources will be required in the future; and

WHEREAS, Local Government continues to effectively and robustly implement the goals of the Clean Water and Safe Drinking Water Acts, first in 1948 under President Truman, 1956 under Congressional enactment over President Eisenhower’s veto, 1965 under President Johnson, 1972 under Congressional enactment over President Nixon’s veto, 1974 under President Ford, 1977 under President Carter, 1986 under President Reagan, 1987 under Congressional enactment over President Reagan’s veto, 1996 under President Clinton, 2000 under President Clinton, and 2002 under President Bush; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the United States Conference of Mayors calls on Congress and Federal agencies including the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) to implement a SUSTAINABLE and COORDINATED NATIONAL STRATEGY in support of Local Government to renew and strengthen the intergovernmental commitment to water and wastewater infrastructure. The United States Conference of Mayors suggests, through the Mayors Water Council, the following Congressional actions: Allocate an additional $50 billion over 10 years, as follows: $3 billion annually in grants to cities to comply with sewer overflow infrastructure; and $2 billion annually in additional SRF loan funding (over and above recent SRF recapitalization amounts) for rehabilitation of aging infrastructure, protection of water and wastewater infrastructure, and promote source water availability; Fully fund federally-passed environmental mandates and court-ordered consent agreements applicable to water and wastewater systems; Increase program/policy flexibility to allow cities to undertake locally-designed strategies, emphasizing green infrastructure and other flexible and innovative solutions; Remove Private Activity Bonds for water/wastewater infrastructure from State Volume Caps; Identify and remove impediments in the Federal Tax Code to enhance local government access to private capital to fund public water and wastewater infrastructure; and.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The United States Conference of Mayors suggests, through the Mayors Water Council, the following EPA actions: Provide more direct and location/situation specific technical assistance to cities concerning: asset management, long-range capital planning, and sustainable system pricing strategies; Develop EPA Regional plans

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for infrastructure improvements related to climate change, including adapting to events such as droughts, floods, and rising sea levels; Provide technical assistance to cities to optimize the water-energy nexus to conserve both and reduce GHG emissions.
URGING INCREASED RESOURCES TO ADVANCE RESTORATION, AND
PROTECTION, OF OUR NATION’S LARGE RIVERS, LAKES, BAYS AND
ESTUARIES

WHEREAS, there are many efforts across multiple Federal Agencies to address the health of our nation’s many watersheds including the EPA, NOAA, USDA, Army Corps of Engineers, Department of Energy, and the Department of Interior; and

WHEREAS, there is a critical need to address growing pollution problems and climate impact associated with four categories of watersheds, particularly – large rivers, lakes, bays and estuaries; and

WHEREAS, bodies such as the Chesapeake Bay, Delaware Bay, New York Upper/Lower Bays, Boston Bay, Skuylkill River, Puget Sound, Lower Columbia River, San Francisco Bay, Gulf of Santa Catalina, Galveston Bay, Lake Ponchartrain/Lake Borgne Watershed, Florida Bay, Tampa Bay, Charlotte Harbor, and the Great Lakes all cover thousands of square miles just adjacent to some of our nation’s largest cities and thus regulate our temperatures, stabilize our weather patterns, support our economies, influence our health, define our communities character and history, and add to our quality of life and state of well being; and

WHEREAS, special programs such as the National Estuary Program within EPA, the Mississippi River/Gulf of Mexico Watershed Nutrient Task Force, the Maryland Bay Restoration Fund, and the Council of Large Aquatic Ecosystems have all made great strides in improving the assessment and response to increasing pollution of our bays and estuaries without a high level of funding; and

WHEREAS, in June of 2009, President Obama established the Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force led by the White House CEQ to develop a recommendation for national policy that ensures protection, maintenance, and restoration of oceans, coastal regions, and the Great Lakes area; and

WHEREAS, fisheries, ports, farms, and the climate of our cities all depend on these bodies of water; yet, millions of tons of sediment, nitrogen, phosphorus, mercury, and other pollutants continually keep our most critical water bodies at risk, of which some are even on the EPA's "Impaired Waters" list; and

WHEREAS, sanitary and combined sewer overflow systems, outdated water treatment plants, marine craft discharge & leakage, urban stormwater runoff, and unregulated agricultural runoff all contribute to the decline of our most valuable and economically critical large body bays and estuaries; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges increases in the authorization levels allowed for essential programs that protect and improve the health of our watersheds such as the Community Action for Renewed Environment Program (EPA), Clean Water State Revolving Fund (EPA), Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund (EPA), Five Star Restoration Program (EPA), Nonpoint Source Pollution Funding (EPA), Targeted Watershed Grants (EPA), Community Based Restoration Program Funding (NOAA), Estuary
Habitat Restoration Program (NOAA), and the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Program (USDA); and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges the Obama Administration to assemble a task force, much like the one created in June 2009 for ocean policy, to coordinate and increase efforts to heal and protect large rivers, bays and estuaries using the principles of the ‘Triple Bottom Line’ of sustainability to integrate water quality solutions into the entire spectrum of the decision making process; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that mayors from cities on large rivers, bays and estuaries come together collectively either through the U.S. Conference of Mayors Water Council or otherwise to create a National campaign for strategic investments in these valuable water bodies through newly created restoration funds and programs where there are not any and increase the level of support for those restoration programs that already exist.
SUPPORT FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN CITIES

WHEREAS, over half of today’s global population lives in an urban setting – a number expected to increase over 70% by 2050; and

WHEREAS, this rapid urbanization has placed severe stress on the environment and human health through increased waste, pollution and greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, cities sit at the intersection of law, policy, economic development, land use decisions, and the public interest and can be a guide to the federal government and other entities of how to address these challenges and encourage sustainable development; and

WHEREAS, many cities are already at the forefront of developing and implementing cutting-edge strategies to inspire a bottom-up approach to a low-carbon future through the adoption of climate action plans, the implementation of green building codes and standards, the revision of an existing municipal plan, or the use of policies based on LEED for Neighborhood Development; and

WHEREAS, cities and other local governments will soon be able to rate how sustainable they are in terms of economic, social, and environmental sustainability with the STAR Community Index and be able to use the Index as a planning tool to ensure that they continue to move towards being a sustainable community; and

WHEREAS, the federal government has shown increased support for sustainable communities through the Sustainable Communities Partnership, a collaboration between the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Department of Transportation, and the Environmental Protection Agency.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the U.S. Conference of Mayors acting on behalf of its constituents to call on the Congress of the United States to Adopt the Livable Communities Act, the Enhancing Livability for All Americans Act, or similar legislation and support full funding for the Sustainable Communities Partnership in the President’s Budget.
HUD, DOT AND EPA PARTNERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, U.S. Department of Transportation, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency have joined together to form the Partnership for Sustainable Communities; and

WHEREAS, this partnership represents an unprecedented agreement to coordinate federal housing, transportation, and environmental investments; protect public health and the environment; promote equitable development; and help address the challenges of climate change; and

WHEREAS, as a key element of the partnership the three agencies are working together to coordinate federal policies, programs, and resources to help local governments build more sustainable communities and remove policy or other barriers that prevent sustainability; and

WHEREAS, this partnership is based on six Livability Principles including:

- Provide more transportation choices;
- Promote equitable, affordable housing;
- Increase economic competitiveness;
- Support existing communities;
- Leverage federal investment;
- Value communities and neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, this partnership has already led to important programmatic initiatives such as the HUD Sustainable Communities Planning Grant Program, the DOT Urban Circulator and Bus and Bus Facility Program and the EPA Waters Initiative; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the U.S Conference of Mayors congratulates HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan, DOT Secretary Ray LaHood and EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson for their leadership in creating the Partnership for Sustainable Communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors will continue to work with these three agencies to enhance and promote the Partnership programs and principles.
CALLING ON THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION TO CREATE AN OFFICE DEDICATED TO THE PROMULGATING OF SUSTAINABLE PRINCIPLES, PRACTICES, AND POLICIES

WHEREAS, “Sustainable Development” has been defined by the United Nations World Commission on Environment & Development as “meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs;” and

WHEREAS, sustainable practices have been implemented within State Governments since 1997 when New Jersey was the first state to create a state-wide “Office of Sustainable Development;” and

WHEREAS, States such as Maryland (Office of Sustainability), New York (Interagency Committee on Sustainability and Green Procurement), Massachusetts (Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs), Colorado (Office of Environmental Integration & Sustainability), and Washington (Interagency Sustainability Committee) have created state-wide offices dedicated to the implementation of sustainable practices across several regulatory regimes with quantifiable success; and

WHEREAS, seventy cities across the country have also taken steps to appoint Sustainability Directors or create offices with a mandate of promoting the principles of sustainability within their cities; and

WHEREAS, recent economic, political, and cultural realities have prompted many governments, companies and individuals to assess and reconsider their plans for long-term sustainability; and

WHEREAS, the seriousness of climate change threats has never been more evident, as demand for natural resources continues to escalate, and hopes for reigniting economic growth rest on investments in the emerging green economy; and

WHEREAS, the sustainability practices of some cities are partly financed by funding secured from the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant adding to the future importance of that account remaining whole in out-laying appropriation cycles; and

WHEREAS, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act included thirteen accounts dedicated to funding sustainable economic development initiatives across the nation which accounted for nearly 6 percent of the Act’s total spending, or $43.53 billion; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Congress has appropriated the funding of a sustainable development grant program called the “Sustainable Communities Initiative” which includes two competitive grant programs, one for planning and one for implementation of a sustainability plan at the local government level; and

WHEREAS, though the Administration has established the “Office for Urban Affairs” and various agencies have constructed formal sustainable development organization components
within their bureaucratic structures, there remains no unified effort within the administration to promote the many and fragmented initiatives to advance the ‘green’ economy; and

WHEREAS, on October 5, 2009, President Obama issued an Executive Order entitled “Federal Leadership in Environmental, Energy, and Economic Performance,” that sets sustainability goals for Federal agencies and focuses on making improvements in their environmental, energy and economic performance. This effort is being coordinated by the Office of the Federal Environmental Executive; and

WHEREAS, this resolution seeks to launch an effort to translate the work being done at the Federal level into a plan for bringing these best practices to the local level; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the U.S. Conference of Mayors recommends and endorses the creation of an office within the Administration, whose primary mandate is to encourage, promote, and further principles and practices of sustainability across all sectors of the communities outside the Federal Government; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that any apparatus charged with advocating sustainable development may be an existing entity within an agency whose mandate need only be altered to make sustainable development promotion in our communities its main priority.
ENDORSING “Closing the Recycling Loop – AFFIRMATIVE SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT PROGRAM”

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors has previously adopted strong policy resolutions calling for cities, communities and the federal government to take actions to reduce the use of our precious natural resources, reduce our carbon footprint, and potable water consumption; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) collects and reports data on the generation and disposal of waste in the United States: In 2007, Americans generated about 254 million tons of trash or 4.6 pounds per person per day. On average, we recycled and composted only 1.5 pounds of our 4.6 pounds of individual waste generation. In addition the Construction and demolition waste generated annually was 170,000 million tons or 3.2 pounds per capita per day; and

WHEREAS, Aluminum, for example, requires 96 percent less energy to make from recycled cans than it does to process from bauxite. Recycled plastic bottles use 76 percent less energy and newsprint about 45 percent less. Across the board, the key factor is the energy intensity of extracting virgin materials, which is an order of magnitude higher than that of recovering the same material through recycling. It takes 10.4 million Btu to manufacture products from a ton of recyclables, compared to 23.3 million Btu for virgin materials; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors believes that virgin resource reduction and increased corporate responsibility to produce products that are both made of recycled content and are recyclable will have a positive economic and environmental impact on U.S. cities in the coming decades by reducing the current fiscal liabilities for waste, eliminate the need for landfills, promote product innovation, reduce water and energy consumption and create sustainable economic development; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors believe that we can begin to shift the fiscal burden of waste and empower industry to embrace resource responsibility by rewarding stewardship through purchasing and economic development strategies. If cities, communities and the federal government commit to the purchase of products with the highest level of environmental stewardship then Industry will begin to accept financial responsibility for both the virgin resource input and the waste output that flows through the corporation; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the U.S. Conference of Mayors believes that the following Sustainable Procurement Guidelines will further this effort; and are defined as follow:

Recycled Content: Purchasing preferences will be given to products containing the highest level of producer responsibility as defined below:

- Post Consumer Close Loop Stewardship. Manufacturer reclaims its own product waste at the end of life and reuses its own waste product as its feedstock for its new product. This is the most technically challenging process but is also the most sustainable. This process fulfills all levels of environmental stewardship and is the ultimate goal for all manufacturing processes.
• Post Consumer Open Loop Content. Manufacturer uses other people’s waste at the end of life and uses other people’s waste as its feedstock for its new product. This empowers recycled content in new product development but leaves disconnect between the manufacturer and its own product waste stream.

• Pre-Consumer/Post Industrial Content. Manufacturer reclaims manufacturing waste and uses it as feedstock for its new product. This, at minimum, should empower new efficiencies and foster the beginnings of environmental stewardship. Recyclable: All products purchased must be certified as recyclable. Products must validate that at the end of life the embodied water, energy and material can be recycled for further product development reducing the need for virgin resource extraction. Water Reduction: Preference will be given to manufacturers and products utilizing waterless or low water technologies in the manufacturing process. Climate Neutral Certificate: All products purchased should provide a 3rd party validated climate neutral certificate guaranteeing the municipality that there are no hidden carbon liabilities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors encourages all Mayors and the Federal Government to create An Affirmative Sustainable Procurement Program; closing the recycling loop, encouraging the development of recycled/recyclable products, fostering extended producer responsibility and creating an innovative, sustainable marketplace.
SUPPORTING EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY FOR PRODUCTS

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors 2000 Resolution, entitled "Shared Responsibility for Waste Reduction," urged the membership to engage in dialogue with manufacturers, distributors, retailers, and citizens in their communities and develop voluntary programs regarding Shared Responsibility for Waste Reduction with measurable goals and objectives; and

WHEREAS, state policies currently hold local governments responsible for achieving waste diversion goals and enforcing product disposal bans, both of which are unfunded mandates; and

WHEREAS, the costs to manage problematic products are currently borne by taxpayers and rate payers and these costs are increasing substantially and will continue to do so unless policy changes are made; and

WHEREAS, approximately 250 million tons of discarded products and packaging are currently managed in communities each year; and

WHEREAS, statewide data from California show that less than ten percent of household hazardous waste products are being collected at average costs upwards of $1,000 per ton; and

WHEREAS, there are environmental and human health impacts associated with improper management of mercury lamps, sharps, pharmaceuticals and other products and economic impacts when waste becomes litter, including ocean litter; and

WHEREAS, costs paid by local governments to manage products are, in effect, subsidies to the producers of hazardous products and of products designed for disposal; and

WHEREAS, Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR, also known as Product Stewardship) is a policy approach that encourages shared responsibility where all entities involved in the product chain have some responsibility to reduce the life-cycle impacts of a product and its packaging, but primary responsibility lies with the producer, or brand owner, who makes design and marketing decisions; and

WHEREAS, under EPR producers are responsible for designing, financing and managing effective end-of-life systems for their products and associated packaging; and

WHEREAS, EPR incorporates the cost of disposal and recovery of discarded products into the purchase price to allow for a more free-market approach with the private sector playing a bigger role in product waste management, bringing innovation and competition to reduce the recycling costs and the financial burden on local taxpayers and garbage ratepayers; and

WHEREAS, EPR encourages reuse and recycling and also encourages producers to consider the health and environmental costs associated with the products they create and to include those costs in the product price, thereby creating an incentive to design products that are more durable, less toxic, and cost-effective to repair and recycle; and

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WHEREAS, local jurisdictions in Minnesota, Texas, New York and Massachusetts, and 92 local governments and associations in California have adopted local resolutions calling for state EPR legislation; and

WHEREAS, the National League of Cities, the National Association of Counties and municipal leagues in Minnesota and California have adopted policy statements in support of EPR legislation, and statewide local government Product Stewardship Councils in CA, NW, NY, TX and VT have adopted Principles for Framework Product Stewardship; and

WHEREAS, more than 50 producer responsibility laws in 32 states covering 7 categories of hazardous products have been passed since 2005, and the Maine legislature unanimously passed the first EPR Framework law in 2010 with Maine Chamber of Commerce and Merchant support; and

WHEREAS, local governments are eager to develop a partnership with manufacturers to “close the loop” on product waste to keep materials in the economic stream of commerce to support our economy instead of becoming a long-term liability by putting materials in landfills; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports state and federal EPR legislation which gives producers the incentive to design products to make them less toxic and easier to reuse and recycle.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to protect and support the ability of local and state governments to establish producer responsibility legislation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors encourages all manufacturers to share in the responsibility for eliminating waste through minimizing excess packaging, designing products for durability, reusability and the ability to be recycled; using recycled materials in the manufacture of new products; and providing financial support for collection, processing, recycling, or disposal of used materials.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors encourage its members to develop producer responsibility policies such as purchasing recycled content products, leasing products rather than purchasing them and requiring producers to offer less toxic alternatives and to take responsibility for collecting and recycling their products and the end of their useful life.
CREATION OF A NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST FUND

WHEREAS, cities are at the national forefront of creating environmental strategies and policies that are key to the development and implementation of sustainable communities; and

WHEREAS, cities within metro areas are the engines of our nation’s economy, accounting for 90.1 percent of gross domestic product, 90.3 percent of wage and salary income, and 86.2% of all U.S. jobs; and

WHEREAS, in 2010 the nation’s metro areas are forecast to produce 93 percent of all new jobs, and that 10% of all new jobs projected over the next 20 years are expected to be green jobs; and

WHEREAS, resource management, transportation policies, pollution prevention, and pollution control strategies at the local level are key to protecting our air, water, and land; and

WHEREAS, the development of local and regional environmental infrastructure is key to our nation’s public health and resource protection; and

WHEREAS, many economically distressed cities and their metro regions are faced with significant unfunded environmental mandates, including combined sewer overflows, in many instances exceeding hundreds of millions of dollars in costs; and

WHEREAS, much of the pollution that local taxpayers must pay to control and/or clean up are produced by third party business entities; and

WHEREAS, such costs for environmental pollution should not be born exclusively by the taxpayer; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on the Congress to create a National Environmental Trust to be administered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that proceeds from the Trust be used to grant funds to cities to support the development and implementation of environmental infrastructure, pollution prevention programs, environmental cleanup activities, Brownfields remediation and redevelopment, pollution reduction programs, and sustainable development policies; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Environmental Trust be funded through fees placed on the producers of pollutants or their compounds that are released into the environment or are in products manufactured that result in such release of compounds or pollutants.
RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE COLLECTIVE AGREEMENT ON GUN VIOLENCE SIGNED BY GLOBAL MAYORS ASSEMBLED AT THE 2010 RICHARD J. DALEY GLOBAL CITIES FORUM, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

WHEREAS, on April 25-27, 2010, mayors and municipal leaders from more than 50 major cities around the world assembled in Chicago for the Sixth Annual Richard J. Daley Global Cities Forum to discuss urban issues of common priority and concern; and

WHEREAS, the Global Cities Forum included a discussion dedicated to the issue of “Making Our Cities Safer;” and

WHEREAS, the discussion of how best to enhance public safety ultimately led to a discussion among the mayors and municipal leaders assembled at the Global Cities Forum of the devastating consequences to cities and their residents from illegal guns and gun violence; and

WHEREAS, the assembled mayors and municipal leaders agreed that due to the fact that they are on the front lines, they experience first-hand the immediate consequences and damages caused by illegal guns and gun violence in ways that other levels of governments do not; and

WHEREAS, the assembled mayors and municipal leaders agreed that the prevalence of illegal guns in their cities is resulting in unacceptable levels of human, social and economic damage; and

WHEREAS, the assembled mayors and municipal leaders agreed that illegal guns are fundamentally undermining other local efforts to enhance safety and improve quality of life in their cities, contributing to an increase in youth violence worldwide, and supporting international criminal organizations that traffic in illicit drugs and other contraband, including humans; and

WHEREAS, the assembled mayors and municipal leaders agreed that the pervasiveness of illegal guns in their cities and worldwide is driven largely by issues that cities do not have the authority to address, including lax regulation and oversight of the world’s gun industry, lack of legal accountability of the gun industry, and the ease with which guns can be globally trafficked, obtained, carried and traded; and

WHEREAS, the assembled mayors and municipal leaders agreed these issues call for a new level of international cooperation among themselves, their governments and other entities; and

WHEREAS, 25 mayors from around the world, including mayors representing cities in Argentina, Canada, Chile, Congo, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Jordan, Kenya, Mexico, Scotland, South Africa, Spain, Sweden and the United States, signed an unprecedented resolution at the Global Cities Forum agreeing to forge a new level of global cooperation on gun violence by working together to:
• Call upon their respective national governments to help address the issue of global gun trafficking and gun violence by making it part of a global agenda;
• Call upon the United States government to take a leadership role in addressing the issue of global gun violence in the world’s cities by imposing greater oversight and accountability of the gun industry, and stricter regulation and enforcement of the means by which guns can be globally trafficked, obtained, carried and traded;
• Where possible, seek redress against the gun industry through the courts of the world – including local, state, and federal courts, and international courts – for damages caused to our countries, cities, and communities by global trafficking of illegal guns;
• Call upon international human rights and public health organizations to help cities address global trafficking in guns and its sources;
• Challenge the news media to more effectively and more deeply report the nature of international trade in guns and the damages being inflicted upon the world; and Continue to work together to report on and advance progress on the above objectives,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors support the goals of the resolution signed by mayors at the Global Cities Forum, as stated above; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors work in partnership with cities and organizations around the world to help advance progress on the Global Cities Forum resolution.
WHEREAS, the United States has the responsibility under international law to protect visiting foreign dignitaries in this country, and

WHEREAS, Title 18 of the United States Code, Section 3056, requires the United States Secret Service (hereinafter USSS), Department of Homeland Security, to protect the President, Vice President, President-elect, Vice President-elect, former Presidents, their spouses and immediate families, visiting heads of foreign states and governments, major presidential and vice presidential candidates, and other individuals as designated by the President, and

WHEREAS, the Diplomatic Security Service (hereinafter DSS), Department of State, is tasked with providing protective security for the Secretary of State, United States Ambassador to the United Nations, and all visiting foreign dignitaries, and

WHEREAS, the USSS and DSS do not have the staffing to provide the necessary dignitary protection network for protective visits in local jurisdictions and must rely upon local law enforcement agencies to ensure the most comprehensive protection possible for the protectees, and

WHEREAS, the support provided to the USSS and DSS is vital; however, it places a huge financial burden upon the local law enforcement agencies and diverts their limited personnel and equipment resources from the services regularly provided to the community, and

WHEREAS, the Honolulu Police Department provided direct support to the USSS and DSS for five dignitary visits and two Presidential-related visits in 2009 at a cost of over $600,000, and

WHEREAS, due to the economic crisis nationwide and the resulting budgetary shortfalls at the city and county levels, local governments need assistance in bearing the costs incurred for dignitary protection services provided to federal agencies,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the Administration and the Congress to provide reimbursement funding to local law enforcement agencies for expenses incurred in providing direct support to federal agencies for dignitary protective visits.
URGING PAROLE FOR ALL HAITIAN BENEFICIARIES OF APPROVED IMMIGRANT VISA PETITIONS AND EXPEDITED CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF ALL PENDING IMMIGRANT VISA PETITIONS

WHEREAS, on January 12, 2010, Haiti was devastated by an unprecedented 7.0 Richter Scale earthquake which has killed at least 250,000 people, left millions homeless and injured, and destroyed important Haitian government and international institutional resources and infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, Haiti is the western hemisphere’s poorest nation and one of the poorest in the world; and

WHEREAS, on January 14, 2010, President Obama said that the disaster in Haiti “is one of those moments that call out for American’s leadership” and

WHEREAS, it is a policy of the United States to expeditiously assist Haiti’s people and government to rebuild and recover from this catastrophe; and

WHEREAS, the Haitian diaspora is mainly in the United States and remits about $2 billion dollars annually which is crucial to the welfare and survival of Haitians and to Haiti’s welfare; and

WHEREAS, if allowed to work in the United States, the 55,000 beneficiaries would send remittances to Haiti supporting an estimated 550,000 to one million persons in Haiti; and

WHEREAS, such capital flow is by far the largest source of foreign aid to Haiti and more important to Haitians per capita, than to any other nation in the world; and

WHEREAS, prior to the January 12, 2010 earthquake, the United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS) had approved immigrant visa petitions for 55,000 Haitian beneficiaries now languishing unnecessarily in devastated Haiti until their priority dates become current, which is estimated to take anywhere from six to 12 years; and

WHEREAS, there are legal ways for the Obama Administration to promptly parole these 55,000 Haitian beneficiaries who are already approved for entry into the United States; and

WHEREAS, doing so would reunite families, provide for orderly migration, and ease the burden on Haiti’s overwhelmed government without cost the United States; and

WHEREAS, Haiti’s prompt recovery and the survival of its democracy are of great national security to the United States given Haiti’s proximity and our large Haitian-American population; and

WHEREAS, paroling the 55,000 Haitian approved beneficiaries into the United States and allowing them to work is the simplest, most effective way to help Haiti recover from the catastrophe now being suffered; and
WHEREAS, DHS has humanitarian parole authority under the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) under Section 212(d)(5)(A) to expeditiously parole into the United States persons for “urgent humanitarian reasons or significant public benefit;” and

WHEREAS, the United States has brought hundreds of thousands of Indochinese, Cuban, and Kosovo refugees, among others, into the United States when it was deemed it to be in the interests of national security; and

WHEREAS, although no congressional action is needed for DHS to exercise its humanitarian parole authority under the INA, the Haitian Emergency Life Protection Act of 2010 (“HELP Act”), S. 2998 and H.R. 4616, currently pending legislation, would grant V visas to bring these Haitian beneficiaries into the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Obama Administration has been urged to promptly parole the 55,000 Haitian beneficiaries of approved immigrant visa petitions by the editorial board of the Washington Post in their editorial, ”The U.S. should welcome Haitians in,” published on January 29, 2010; and

WHEREAS, the editorial board of the Miami Herald followed suit in its lead editorial, “U.S. must lead in Haiti’s recovery,” published on March 22, 2010; and

WHEREAS, Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano was urged to parole the 55,000 beneficiaries by House of Representatives Chairpersons John Conyers (Judiciary), Howard Berman (Foreign Affairs), and Zoe Lofgren (immigration subcommittee), Representative Yvette Clark, South Florida’s Republican Representatives Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, Lincoln Diaz-Balart, and Mario Diaz-Balart, and by Representative Anh Cao of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, the same relief was urged in a March 12, 2010 letter to Secretary Napolitano by 74 national and international organizations and eight other individuals; and

WHEREAS, the same relief was urged on February 2, 2010 in a Huffington Post op-ed by Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS) Senior Vice President Mark Hetfield; and

WHEREAS, as President Reagan’s Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs Elliot Abrams, who also served as President George W. Bush’s Deputy National Security Advisor, wrote in his Washington Post op-ed, “What Haiti Needs: A Haitian Diaspora,” January 22, 2010, that “a larger Haitian diaspora would be a far better base for the country’s economic future than aid pledges” because their “remittances to Haiti would give its economy a huge and continuing jolt,” and “one of the best ways to help Haiti is to allow some Haitians to move abroad” because “migration would mean that Haiti needs to provide fewer hospital beds, schools, meals and jobs – and migrants’ remittances will be key to Haiti’s economic recovery for decades to come,” and President Obama “should be asking Congress …to allow a significant increase in the number of Haitians legally admitted to the United States – to several times the roughly 25,000 per year in the past decade. … There are no panaceas for Haiti’s recovery, but any sensible approach must include migration from the island. If the United States is committed to giving Haiti hope for the future, enlarging the Haitian diaspora is a surefire way to succeed;” and
WHEREAS, millions made homeless by the earthquake will suffer unnecessarily during Haiti’s rain and hurricane seasons; thereby decreasing the window available for action; and

WHEREAS, immigrant visa petitions for a further 19,000 Haitian beneficiaries are pending but not yet been approved; and

WHEREAS, helping neighbors and succoring the needy are in the highest traditions and values of the United States,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors hereby urge President Obama and Department of Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano to promptly parole into the United States all Haitian beneficiaries of approved immigrant visa petitions and to permit them to legally work in the United States, and to expedite consideration and approval of all pending but not yet approved immigrant visa petitions.
SUPPORTING U.S. PARTICIPATION IN GLOBAL ELIMINATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND REDIRECTION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS SPENDING TO MEET THE NEEDS OF CITIES

WHEREAS, August 6 and 9, 2010 mark the 65th anniversaries of the United States atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki; and

WHEREAS, eight nations still possess a total of nearly 23,000 nuclear warheads – 95% of them held by the U.S. and Russia; and

WHEREAS, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) on April 10, 2010 declared: “Nuclear weapons are unique in their destructive power, in the unspeakable human suffering they cause, in the impossibility of controlling their effects in space and time, in the risks of escalation they create, and in the threat they pose to the environment, to future generations, and indeed to the survival of humanity…. In the view of the ICRC, preventing the use of nuclear weapons requires fulfillment of existing obligations to pursue negotiations aimed at prohibiting and completely eliminating such weapons through a legally binding international treaty;” and

WHEREAS, on April 5, 2009 in Prague, President Obama acknowledged that “as the only nuclear power to have used a nuclear weapon, the United States has a moral responsibility to act” for the achievement of the “peace and security of a world without nuclear weapons”; and

WHEREAS, the April 2010 Department of Defense Nuclear Posture Review recognized: “It is in the U.S. interest and that of all other nations that the nearly 65-year record of nuclear non-use be extended forever. As President Ronald Reagan declared, ‘A nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought’;” and

WHEREAS, the October 2007 Final Declaration of the 2nd World Congress of United Cities and Local Governments endorsed “the Mayors for Peace campaign, which lobbies the international community to renounce weapons of mass destruction;” and

WHEREAS, the unprecedented membership growth of Mayors for Peace, now approaching 4000 worldwide, has sent a powerful message to world leaders that cities must be freed from the nuclear threat; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors unanimously adopted resolutions in 2007, “calling on all nations and all world powers to prohibit the use of any weapon of mass destruction against cities;” in 2008, supporting the Mayors for Peace “Hiroshima-Nagasaki Protocol” for the global elimination of nuclear weapons by 2020; and in 2009, “call[ing] on President Obama to announce at the 2010 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference the initiation of good faith multilateral negotiations on an international agreement to abolish nuclear weapons by the year 2020;” and

WHEREAS, on May 13, 2010, at the midpoint of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference, in connection with submission of the new START treaty to the Senate, President Obama submitted a classified report on a Congressionally-mandated plan to maintain and modernize U.S. nuclear forces for the foreseeable future. According to a White House fact
The plan includes investments of $80 billion to sustain and modernize the nuclear weapons complex and “well over $100 billion in nuclear delivery systems to sustain existing capabilities and modernize some strategic systems” by the year 2020. Under this plan funding for the nuclear weapons research and production programs of the National Nuclear Security Administration will increase by more than 40%, from $6.4 billion in FY 2010 to $9 billion by 2018. In turn, $9 billion is 43% above the Cold War annual average of $5.1 billion for analogous Department of Energy nuclear weapons programs; and

WHEREAS, cities have been hard hit by the recent recession which has left them with rapidly rising unemployment and declining revenues, forcing them to make severe cuts in critical public services such as police officers, fire fighters, teachers, medical and emergency workers and bus drivers; and

WHEREAS, on August 9, 2009, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon issued a five-point plan to rid the world of nuclear weapons, beginning “with a call for the NPT parties to pursue negotiations in good faith - as required by the treaty - on nuclear disarmament, either through a new convention or through a series of mutually reinforcing instruments backed by a credible system of verification.” The Secretary-General has announced that he will visit Hiroshima on August 6, 2010, the anniversary of the day the first atomic bomb was dropped, stating: “There I will say, once again, we stand for a world free of nuclear weapons;” and

WHEREAS, on May 28, 2010, at the conclusion of the month-long NPT Review Conference, a 22-point action plan for nuclear disarmament was adopted by consensus of the states parties. By agreeing to this plan the U.S. government inter alia:

• reaffirms the unequivocal undertaking of the nuclear weapon states to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals notes the United Nations Secretary-General’s Five Point Proposal for Nuclear Disarmament, which proposes consideration of negotiations on a nuclear weapons convention
• expresses deep concern at the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any nuclear weapons use and reaffirms the need for all states at all times to comply with international humanitarian law
• seeks early entry-into-force of the new START treaty and the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty
• commits to working for further reductions in all types of nuclear weapons and a diminished role for nuclear weapons in its national security policy
• commits to a principle of “irreversibility” with regard to its nuclear disarmament obligation,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on President Obama to work with the leaders of the other nuclear weapon states to implement the U.N. Secretary-General’s Five Point Proposal for Nuclear Disarmament forthwith, so that a Nuclear Weapons Convention, or a related set of mutually reinforcing legal instruments, can be agreed upon and implemented by the year 2020, as urged by Mayors for Peace; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on the U.S. Senate to ratify the new START treaty and the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty without conditions and without delay; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on the U.S. Congress to terminate funding for modernization of the nuclear weapons complex and nuclear weapons systems, to reduce spending on nuclear weapons programs well below Cold War levels, and to redirect funds to meet the urgent needs of cities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors encourages President Obama, members of the Cabinet and Congress to visit Hiroshima and Nagasaki at the earliest possible date; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors agrees to take up this matter at the June 2011 Conference of Mayors.
SUPPORT FOR U.N. MILLENIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS THROUGH LOCAL OBSERVANCES, SEPTEMBER 17-19, 2010

WHEREAS, 189 world leaders met September 17-19, 2000 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York and issued the Declaration of the Millennium Development Goals, which committed nations to work toward clear targets and goals; and

WHEREAS, the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDG) are eradication of extreme hunger and poverty; universal primary education; gender equality; reduction of child mortality; improvement of maternal health; combating HIV, malaria and other diseases; environmental sustainability; and development of a global partnership for development; and

WHEREAS, in 2009, in a speech to the U.N. General Assembly President Barack Obama reaffirmed the Millennium Development Goals as “America’s Goals,” and said that the United States will continue “our historic effort to realize these goals”; and

WHEREAS, although progress is being made toward realizing the Millennium Development Goals by 2015, the effects of climate change and other challenges call for nations to reaffirm their commitment,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports the End Poverty 2015 Millennium Campaign and supports the United Nations’ “Millennium Campaign Days September 17-19, 2010,” and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls upon mayors throughout the country to support the U.N. Millennium Development Goals through local proclamations, events, and activities.
CREATING JOBS AND REDUCING HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT IN METRO AREAS

WHEREAS, metropolitan areas have long been the engines of US economic growth over the previous decades, they have been hard hit by the recent recession which has left them with rapidly rising unemployment and declining revenues; and

WHEREAS, because local governments are prohibited by law from carrying a budget deficit, they have been forced to make severe cuts in critical public services such as police officers, fire fighters, teachers, medical and emergency workers and bus drivers; and

WHEREAS, there was a net loss of 4.16 million jobs last year sending the national unemployment rate from 7.7 percent to over 10 percent; and while unemployment rates seem to have peaked in the first quarter of 2010 averaging 10.2 percent between January-March, they remain drastically high in some regions-- topping 15 percent in 20 metro areas, 12 percent in 74 metro areas and 10 percent in 135 metro areas; and among the 25 areas with the highest unemployment rate in the country, eleven are in California, seven in Michigan and two in Illinois and Florida; and

WHEREAS, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) or the so called stimulus package has been successful in creating jobs nationally, unemployment rates have skyrocketed in many metro areas reaching 18 percent in Modesto, CA; 16.4 percent in Detroit-Warren-Livonia, MI; 12.4 percent in Toledo, OH and 12.3 percent in Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL; and

WHEREAS, during a time when critical local services have suffered from huge budget cuts, ARRA provided very little direct aid to local governments to help them with their budget shortfalls and avoid further layoffs; and

WHEREAS, House Education and Labor Committee Chairman George Miller worked closely with the leadership of The U.S. Conference of Mayors in crafting the Local Jobs for America Act, which would provide direct aid to local governments to help them avoid further layoffs of critical workers and hire new workers to help put America back to work,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress and the President to pass HR 4812, the Local Jobs for America Act which will provide $75 billion over two years in direct funding to cities with populations over 50,000 to put millions of people to work by restoring services in local communities, in both public and private sector jobs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges support for investments in our metro areas to improve infrastructures that have been under-funded relative to the reasonable measures of their economic contributions. Close attention must be paid to the relationship between the economic health of our nation’s metro areas and the health of the nation as a whole. The national economy can recover more quickly by more directly delegating federal funds to cities and their metro economies.
CREATION OF A NATIONAL ECONOMIC RESTORATION AND COUNTERCYCLICAL PROGRAM

WHEREAS, many recessions or economic downturns within the national economy over the past forty years have been regional in nature; and

WHEREAS, economic recovery following national recessions and regional downturns vary dramatically from metro to metro, with many cities facing slower recoveries as measured by GMP growth and job creation; and

WHEREAS, according to The U.S. Conference of Mayors in its recently released report, “U.S. Metro Economies-- Pace of Economic Recovery: GMP and Jobs (January 2010), U.S. metro area unemployment will remain painfully high, with over 105 metros having more than 10% unemployment by the end of 2011; and 117 metros, almost one-third, having more than 8% unemployment by the end of 2013; and

WHEREAS, according to a survey conducted by The U.S. Conference of Mayors in October of 2009, many cities face much higher unemployment rates and numbers of unemployed compared to their larger metro areas; and

WHEREAS, a large number of metros will remain in recession or will not regain their pre-recession levels of employment until well beyond 2015,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to create a National Economic Restoration and Countercyclical Program that would automatically make funds available to metro areas or select jurisdictions within such areas, that are in recession or have persistently high rates of unemployment; and

BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the program fund infrastructure development, modern transportation facilities, economic development initiatives, and job creation incentives, subject to approval of a local/regional economic restoration plan submitted by cities, approved by the Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration in consultation with the U.S. Departments of Housing and Urban Development, Transportation, and the Department of Labor; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Department of Labor and the Department of Commerce determine annually which cities and metro areas qualify to receive such funding by meeting the economic distress criteria as established in the authorizing legislation.
WHEREAS, in many U.S. cities, fewer than two-thirds of the ninth graders go on to earn a high school diploma, and less than a quarter ultimately earn a bachelor’s degree; and

WHEREAS, on recent international tests, American 15-year olds scored 24th out of 29 developed nations in math and 17th in science; and

WHEREAS, a generation ago the U.S. ranked first in the world in the rate of college completion for 25- to 34-year olds, but the nation is falling behind and now ranks 10th; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors has played a longstanding national leadership role in improving the quality of education, improving student academic excellence, and closing the achievement gap; and

WHEREAS, In 2009, the Conference endorsed the President’s comprehensive plan for public education, with a focus on (1) early childhood education, (2) reform, innovation, and investment in elementary and secondary education, and (3) restoring America’s leadership in higher education; and

WHEREAS, there is a pressing need to reform No Child Left Behind, the most recent version of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act; and

WHEREAS, the President released his Blueprint for Reform of the Act in March 2010, emphasizing three major goals for reauthorization: (1) raise standards, (2) reward excellence and student academic growth, and (3) increase local control and flexibility while maintaining focus on equity and closing achievement gaps; and

WHEREAS, U.S. Secretary of Education Duncan has worked closely with the Conference and individual mayors in diverse cities across the nation to promote a joint strategy for advancing student success and closing the achievement gap, and the President’s Blueprint for Reform is tightly aligned with adopted Conference policies,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors endorses the President’s Blueprint for Reform of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports the following ESEA reauthorization policy priorities:

- Setting a national goal that every student should graduate from high school ready for college and a career, regardless of income, race, ethnic or language background, or disability status.
- Developing and using a new generation of assessments aligned with higher standards, capturing higher-order skills and deeper learning, to provide more accurate measures of student growth and better inform classroom instruction.
• Ensuring a more complete, well-rounded education for students to contribute in our
democracy and thrive in a global economy, from literacy, mathematics, science, and
technology to history, civics, foreign languages, the arts, and other subjects.
• Supporting ambitious efforts to recruit, place, reward, retain, and promote effective
teachers and principals, and to enhance the profession of teaching by recognizing,
encouraging, and rewarding excellence.
• Improving access to effective teachers and principals for students in high-poverty, high-
minority urban schools.
• Investing in more effective pathways and practices for preparing, placing, and supporting
beginning teachers and principals, especially in high need schools.
• Taking steps to ensure equity, including comparability in resources between high- and
low-poverty schools.
• Continuing the incentives for systemic reforms first promulgated in Race to the Top, and
allowing local school districts to take on bold, comprehensive reforms even in the
absence of an effective state application.
• Supporting the expansion of high-performing public charter schools and other
autonomous or mayorally-chartered public schools.
• Increasing access to a challenging high school curriculum, including college-level, dual-
credit, and other accelerated courses.
• Streamlining funding streams to promote student success and innovation, and to provide
greater flexibility to successful local schools.
• Promoting schools as centers of their communities and investing in models that keep
students safe, supported, and healthy both in and out of school.
ESEA REAUTHORIZATION – SUPPORTING AFTERSCHOOL AND THE EDUCATION OF THE WHOLE CHILD

WHEREAS, Congress is preparing to reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act; and

WHEREAS, before-school, afterschool and summer learning programs provide critical supports to students and their families and contribute to educating the whole child; and

WHEREAS, communities like ours rely on the 21st Century Community Learning Center Program (21st CCLC) as an essential source of afterschool program funding that leverages a wide array of funding—local, state and private—as well as partners, including faith-based organizations, nonprofits, businesses, educational organizations and volunteers; and

WHEREAS, as mayors working in cities all over the nation, we understand how critical this program is to providing support for more than 1 million children in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. A wealth of research and data demonstrates that these programs help children academically, socially and behaviorally; and

WHEREAS, despite the demand for and success of afterschool programs, on any given day more than 15 million children are unsupervised afterschool and more than 18 million would be in programs if they were available and affordable. Now is the time to expand access for more of our most at-risk students, not divert much needed afterschool funding to create new programs that will result in even more children home alone; and

WHEREAS, during the hours of 3 PM to 6 PM when children are most at risk for juvenile crime and experimentation with drugs, alcohol, cigarettes and sex, afterschool programs have a proven record of keeping children safe; and

WHEREAS, working families also reap the benefits from afterschool programs; parents who are concerned about their children being unattended after the school day ends miss an average of eight days of work per year. Decreased worker productivity related to parental concerns about afterschool care costs businesses up to $300 billion per year,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors thanks Congress for its continued strong, bipartisan support for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U. S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to protect and expand afterschool funding and oppose any cuts to this much needed program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that rather than divert existing 21st Century Community Learning Center funding to other uses, ESEA should provide separate and enhanced funding streams for:

- The 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program;
- Full Service Community Schools; and
- Expanding the school day or year.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that current law should be maintained which provides funds for the 21st CCLC program by formula to the states and District of Columbia, with each State Education Agency (SEA) running a competitive grant program in which local education agencies (LEA), community-based organizations or faith-based organizations can be the lead entity. All grant applications should require school/community partnerships and a strong alignment between the community-based organization and the school; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that flexibility for the 21st CCLC program be maintained to allow local communities to determine whether the programming occurs at school, at non-school community-based facilities or a combination of locations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to ensure that the many lessons learned by the afterschool community over the past decade help inform school reform; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress and the Administration to look at afterschool partners when designing school reform models. Afterschool programs are able to tap into the best of the community – colleges, museums, scientists, artists, musicians, volunteers, libraries and youth development workers – to teach our children the critical workforce skills and connect their passions to learning.
BUILDING A NATIONAL COMPREHENSIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

WHEREAS, all of the basic elements that are important for comprehensive youth development – educational attainment, after school enrichment, summer and other work experience opportunities, career exploration, mentoring, health services, juvenile justice initiatives, etc. – are typically addressed independently of one another by existing governmental and not-for-profit programs; and

WHEREAS, youth programs and funding are spread out through numerous federal agencies – including Health and Human Services, Education, and Labor – resulting in difficulty coordinating important services; and

WHEREAS, for example, in youth workforce development these gaps have hindered the ability to combine resources and the development of common approaches and standards for eligibility, quality programming, and expectations for succeeding in the workplace,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that America must recognize the need for a comprehensive youth development strategy as a major step forward by our nation to remain productive and competitive and to promote economic and social mobility; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a comprehensive national youth development strategy must encompass the integrated delivery of the full range of fundamental components and the variety of skills and supports described above, including establishment of a Federal Youth Development Council and passage of legislation like the Federal Youth Coordination Act of 2009, which would create the White House Office on National Youth Policy.
ARTS EDUCATION

WHEREAS, the No Child Left Behind Act of 2002 recognizes the arts as a core curriculum subject, allowing federal K-12 funds to support arts education; and

WHEREAS, such federal funds include Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as authorized through the No Child Left Behind Act, as well as funds for teacher training and professional development, technology, after-school and summer programs, and much more; and

WHEREAS, Congress has affirmed the importance of arts education by establishing a dedicated arts education program at the U.S. Department of Education to complement existing programs of the National Endowment for the Arts; and

WHEREAS, a child’s education is not complete unless it includes the arts; and

WHEREAS, a compendium of arts education research entitled Critical Links, released by the Arts Education Partnership, suggest the following:
  • The arts help close the achievement gap for students from economically disadvantaged circumstances, as evidenced by improved test scores
  • The arts improve academic skills essential for reading and language development
  • The arts build strong mathematical skills
  • The arts advance the motivation to learn
  • The arts promote positive social development; and

WHEREAS, inner-city and rural children have not had the same opportunities as children living in wealthier districts to learn in, through, and about the arts; and

WHEREAS, local arts agencies, artists, and arts institutions and organizations stand ready and willing to work with school districts and teachers to improve arts education,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that members of The United States Conference of Mayors urge local school districts and administrators to maximize the use of federal education funds available through the above-named programs, as well as state funds where permissible, to deliver high-quality arts instruction and to integrate the arts into other core subjects. We urge the Congress to appropriate $53 million for the Arts in Education program at the U.S. Department of Education, which will support the further development and dissemination of effective models for improving the quantity and quality of arts education. We further urge the establishment of a national artist corps program to provide services and assistance to schools and arts organizations to improve arts education in our communities.
SUPPORT FOR THE GREENING OF SCHOOL DISTRICTS

WHEREAS, in 2007 and 2009 The U.S. Conference of Mayors led the green schools movement by passing a seminal resolution to ensure that in a generation every child in America will attend a green school; and

WHEREAS, twenty percent of America - including our students, faculty, staff, and administrators - spends their day in a school building; and

WHEREAS, children in green schools are healthier and more productive because green schools emphasize excellence in areas such as day lighting, thermal comfort, and classroom design -- all of which have been shown to improve children's well-being and ability to learn; and

WHEREAS, the benefits of cleaner indoor air quality -- a key emphasis of green schools -- have been linked to lower asthma rates, fewer allergies, reduced absenteeism, and improved teacher satisfaction; and

WHEREAS, green schools provide a learning experience that transcends the classroom by using the built environment as a context for learning, encouraging environmental literacy and hands-on, project-based learning; and

WHEREAS, greening existing schools using tools like the LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) green building rating system can optimize building performance, resolve operational inefficiencies, and dramatically reduce utility costs; and

WHEREAS, greening existing schools can happen through low or no-cost operations and maintenance improvements, such as implementing water efficiency measures, green cleaning programs, sustainable purchasing practices, recycling and waste reduction initiatives, and energy management plans that can save a school district millions of dollars a year in direct operating expenses; and

WHEREAS, many of the policies, programs, and plans for greening existing schools are most cost-effective and yield the largest operational cost-savings when implemented at the district level; and

WHEREAS, mayors can positively influence construction, operation, and maintenance practices in a school district even if they don’t have direct control over it,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls upon its constituents to partner with their local school districts to implement green initiatives such as appointing sustainability managers, establishing a green advisory team, providing training for municipal and district staff, and adopting policies that call for all district schools to pursue certification through third-party rating systems like LEED; to the extent that local school district are subject to statutory tax caps and/or debt limitations, said caps and/or debt limitations should be waived for projects related to greening school facilities.
SUPPORT FOR THE TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES EMERGENCY CONTINGENCY FUND (TANF-ECF)

WHEREAS, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) created a new Emergency Contingency Fund under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program to enable states and cities to respond to increased demands for assistance; and

WHEREAS, the $5 billion allocated over two years may be drawn down by states and localities for cash assistance; non-recurrent assistance such paying a utility bill and/or subsidized employment; and

WHEREAS, in most states, the program was not implemented until late 2009, due to federal delays in crafting guidance for the new program and subsequent clarifications to state and local governments requesting further information on activities eligible for the 80 percent federal funding and what sources of local, in-kind matches could be used under the program; and

WHEREAS, without further congressional action, TANF-ECF will expire on September 30, 2010; and

WHEREAS, in its federal fiscal year 2011 budget, the Obama Administration proposed a new, $2.5 billion program to extend TANF-ECF for an additional year, through September 30, 2011; and

WHEREAS, House Ways and Means Income Security and Family Support Subcommittee Chairman Jim McDermott (D-WA) introduced H.R. 4564, a bill similar to the administration’s budget proposal; and

WHEREAS, the House adopted a bill (H.R. 4849) which contains a new $2.5 billion appropriation for TANF-ECF in FY 2011 with any remaining funds from the old ARRA TANF-ECF program returning to the U.S. Treasury; and

WHEREAS, a projected 120,000 jobs are projected to be created with the funds by September 30, 2010; and

WHEREAS, work skills and relationships developed by individuals in TANF-ECF jobs help build the foundation for permanent employment; and

WHEREAS, state and local governments need federal assurances soon that the program will continue in FY 2011 so that their private sector and non-profit partners employing TANF-ECF participants may plan accordingly; and

WHEREAS, given the need to get families back to work, state budget timelines and historic city and state fiscal stress, it is critical that the federal government act now to extend the TANF-ECF program to ensure that these supports may continue after September 30, 2010,
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports and calls
for the immediate enactment of $2.5 billion in new funding through September 30, 2011 for the
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Emergency Contingency Fund; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to enact
an additional legislative provision to rollover into FY 2011 existing FY 2009-2010 TANF-ECF
funds already subsidizing individuals in jobs to enable state and local governments to minimize
program disruption and ensure that these federal funds are utilized fully.
REGIONAL INNOVATION CLUSTERS TO STRENGTHEN COMPETITIVENESS AND PRODUCTIVITY OF REGIONAL ECONOMIES

WHEREAS, metropolitan leaders must contend with spurring economic productivity and quality job growth to safely lead their regions to recovery from today’s economic crisis; and

WHEREAS, technological innovation in products, processes, as well as institutional innovation underlie productivity growth; and

WHEREAS, U.S.-based operations of numerous industries have not been fully effective in adopting innovation to successfully respond to changing market conditions, including competitive challenges from abroad; and

WHEREAS, regional industry clusters promote innovation by providing thick cross-institutional networks that facilitate technology transfer, knowledge sharing, and improved access to specialized labor, materials, and equipment; and

WHEREAS, strong clusters are positively correlated with increased patenting, greater entrepreneurship, and higher wages; and

WHEREAS, the nation’s network of cluster initiatives to promote the growth and development of strong, competitive regional clusters is thin and uneven in terms of geographic and industry coverage; and

WHEREAS, current federal economic development programs are inadequate to support competitive regional clusters; and

WHEREAS, the federal government is fairly alone among the world’s developing countries in its passive stance toward regional competitiveness and cluster development,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports fully funding initiatives proposed in the FY2011 budget request that would support Regional Innovation Clusters, including the Economic Development Administration’s $75 million Regional Innovation Clusters program; the Small Business Administration’s $11 million effort to align with clusters; the National Science Foundation’s $12 million Innovation Ecosystems program; the Department of Agriculture’s Regional Innovation Initiatives; and the Department of Labor’s Workforce Innovation Fund; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to reauthorize the America COMPETES legislation, including the new provision (sec. 503 of H.R. 5116) for a regional innovation clusters grant program in the Commerce Department that would award funds to support the development of regional innovation strategies, and create a research and information program to gather and disseminate best practices in regional innovation strategies and collect and make available data on U.S. clusters; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to change the current language about the proposed regional innovation clusters program in the
America COMPETES reauthorization bill (sec. 503 of H.R. 5116) to clarify that awards would not go to narrow, individual cluster projects, but rather regional programs that promote cluster initiatives more generally, in order to enhance regional flexibility and capacity to respond to economic change, improve the likelihood of success, and increase cooperation among regional actors.
VOLUNTEER GENERATION FUND

WHEREAS volunteers and nonprofit organizations are crucial partners for cities in providing much-needed social services, particularly during this economic downturn; and

WHEREAS, today, tens of millions of Americans volunteer to tackle our most urgent needs and millions more are prepared to fill gaps in our nation’s social safety net; and

WHEREAS recent studies have shown that the very institutions whose role it would be to deploy the time and talents of these volunteers lack the capacity to use a new surge of volunteers effectively; and

WHEREAS, the annual cost for a nonprofit to screen, train and manage one volunteer per year is $300 and most nonprofits must put volunteer management in the back seat to core functions, resulting in those willing to serve having fewer valuable opportunities and basic services going undelivered; and

WHEREAS, we have seen the need for volunteer infrastructure in times of crisis such as Hurricane Katrina when thousands of unaffiliated volunteers flooded the Gulf region and had to be screened, trained, housed, fed and deployed; and,

WHEREAS, a modest federal investment in a strong volunteer management infrastructure to build the capacity for nonprofits to recruit, train, target and retain volunteers would support the social service delivery systems in cities, large and small; and

WHEREAS, the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act of 2009 included such an investment vehicle - the Volunteer Generation Fund – for grants to entities that 1) are dedicated to the practice of connecting volunteers to meaningful, diverse opportunities and 2) have a track record of practical, actionable engagement strategies across sectors; and

WHEREAS, the Fund, administered by the Corporation for National and Community Service, awards grants to state service commissions and nonprofit organizations that either directly carry out volunteer programs or develop and support community-based entities that recruit, manage or support volunteers; and

WHEREAS, the Fund was authorized for $50 million in FY2010 and Congress appropriated only $4 million; and

WHEREAS, the President has requested $10 million for the Volunteer Generation Fund for FY2011,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls upon Congress to provide $10 million for the Volunteer Generation Fund in FY2011; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Congress should ensure both nonprofit organizations and state service commissions are eligible to apply for funding, as specified in the original Serve America Act.
REAUTHORIZING AND SUPPORTING THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION (EDA)

WHEREAS, America’s success has been based on the hard work, technology and innovations that have lead to such products and inventions such as electricity, the airplane, and the Internet;

WHEREAS, throughout our country’s history economic development activities ranging from infrastructure improvements to investments in innovation and technology have created jobs and helped make American regions more competitive;

WHEREAS, a free and democratic society provides the freedom of thoughts and expression that are essential in the exchange of innovative ideas;

WHEREAS, a strong educational system must include a focus on science, technology and mathematics to provide the structural foundation for future high-wage, high-skilled, and sustainable jobs;

WHEREAS, innovation and entrepreneurship lead to the creation of small business which account for nearly 50% of the United States’ GNP and nearly 50% of total employment; Whereas, investments in green jobs, next-generation infrastructure, and education are putting people back to work and creating a cycle of investment, innovation and job creation for tomorrow;

WHEREAS, tools such as business and technology incubators are able to provide necessary resources that can help create innovation and develop entrepreneurial organizations;

WHEREAS, public private partnerships are integral in spurring and promoting innovation, entrepreneurship;

WHEREAS, collaborative innovation networks can speed the development of ideas, inventions, and innovation through the use of knowledge sharing;

WHEREAS, to maintain America’s economic competitiveness, government policies must promote and support innovation, entrepreneurship, business development, and intellectual property protections;

WHEREAS, the U.S. Economic Development Association is working region by region to help speed the transition to a more entrepreneurial, innovation-driven society by fostering regional innovation that builds on an area’s competitive advantages, encourages business exports and competitiveness, and leverages private investment.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the United States Conference of Mayors urges Congress to adopt policies and procedures that support scientific and technological innovation, product invention, entrepreneurship, and the growth of American small businesses.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that USCM supports the reauthorization of the Economic Development Administration so that it may continue to fulfill its mission to prepare America’s regions for growth and success in the worldwide economy.
A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE DELIVERY OF ECONOMIC STIMULUS JOBS RELATED SERVICES THROUGH THE LOCAL DELIVERY SYSTEM ESTABLISHED UNDER THE WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACT OF 1998

WHEREAS, according to the National Bureau of Economic research, the nation is now in its 32nd month of a deep recession, the longest since the Great Depression; and

WHEREAS, according to the Department of Labor, as of June, 2010, the unemployment rate was at 9.7 percent – almost double the 4.9 percent rate prior to the onset of the recession; and

WHEREAS, according to the Department of Labor, as of June 2010 the true unemployment rate that includes individuals who have exhausted unemployment and are no longer looking for work or working part time wanting full time employment was at 16.6 percent; and

WHEREAS, the WIA led One-Stop system which includes Wagner Peyser and other workforce partner funding streams has seen an increase of 200 percent in its services to the job seeking public; and

WHEREAS, the facile, adaptable, and responsive nature of the current system as proven by national emergency and disaster job responsiveness, the implementation of a national summer program and the manner in which the One-Stop system stepped up to meet the challenge of the surge of the jobless seeking services at the One Stop, has shown the WIA / Wagner Peyser funded workforce system can handle the development of jobs and referral of individuals to jobs regardless of the program; and

WHEREAS, under WIA our nation’s cities have been able to provide job training to workers while they are laid off, as well as continue to meet the demand of local businesses for a skilled workforce; and

WHEREAS, under WIA our nation’s cities have been able to direct workers to job training which will meet the demands of local businesses as the economy begins to slowly turn toward recovery; and

WHEREAS, Congress is considering a series of new Jobs Bills to help fuel the recovery and make sure that jobs are there for the nation’s unemployed workers, including but not limited to, H.R. 4849, The Small Business and Infrastructure Jobs Tax Act, H.R. 4899, The Disaster Relief and Summer Jobs Act, and H.R. 4812, The Local Jobs for America Act of 2010, each of which includes a component for subsidized jobs; and

WHEREAS, the local workforce investment system has proven time after time as was evidenced by the delivery of last year’s Summer Youth Employment Program, that the system has the organization, skills and ability to quickly create temporary subsidized jobs,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors urges Congress and the federal government to direct those initiatives contained as component of the above cited bills or any other initiative which may appear in future bills, which provides for the creation of temporary jobs, to be delivered under the auspices of the local delivery system
created and operating under the Workforce Investment Act of 1998; and strengthen the
Workforce Investment Act by significantly increasing its funding to $8.35 billion, which is
consistent with maintaining current funding for WIA programs at 2000 levels (adjusted for
inflation), sustaining the levels included in ARRA, and ensuring a continued strong Summer
Youth program to address the crisis in youth employment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to
ensure that clearly defined roles for state and local Workforce Investment Boards (WIBs), strong
local authority and increased flexibility for local elected officials and their WIBs and the current
statutory and decision-making authority for chief local elected officials and their WIBs remain at
the core and be the key organization of all federal workforce and jobs initiatives as solutions are
offered to help our economy.
A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE DELIVERY OF WORKFORCE SERVICES THROUGH THE LOCAL WORKFORCE SYSTEM CREATED UNDER THE WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACT OF 1998

WHEREAS, the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) of 1998 directed States to designate local workforce areas in concert with local elected officials based upon criteria established in the Act; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the WIA chief local elected officials in each workforce investment area appointed majority private sector local workforce investment boards which together with the chief local elected officials in each established a system of one-stop career centers in their local workforce areas to provide seamless access to workforce services including job training and employment together with their one-stop partner programs; and

WHEREAS, the current recession, known as the “Great Recession” has served to showcase the critical role locally managed one-stops under the leadership of local elected officials and local workforce investment boards have played in providing hope to the jobless, through the provision of job counseling, job training, job development and job placement and replacement; and

WHEREAS, in city after city the locally driven one-stop career centers have been the hub of activity for workers providing them with the tools necessary for them to obtain the services needed to rejoin the labor force; and

WHEREAS, locally led and managed workforce systems will continue to be a key factor in fueling the recovery, and in helping our nation’s cities to prepare its citizens and residents to meet the demands of employers in their local areas,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the President and Congress to retain the existing governance structure in any legislation which calls for the reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998, as the current assignment of responsibilities between the federal government, the states and the local elected officials has proven to be so effective in both reaching those individuals who most need the services offered by the workforce system and in serving the needs of and acting as a liaison between employers in their local areas; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to ensure that clearly defined roles for state and local Workforce Investment Boards (WIBs), stronger WIA alignment with other federal workforce programs, and that the current statutory and decision-making authority for chief local elected officials and their WIBs remain at the core of WIA reauthorization, so that the system will allow for development of programs that are informed by in-depth knowledge of the local business community, hiring and training needs of local and regional businesses, and the promotion of greater accountability as policies are designed to reflect local trends.
METRO ECONOMIES COMMITTEE

CREATING JOBS AND REDUCING HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT IN METRO AREAS

WHEREAS, metropolitan areas have long been the engines of US economic growth over the previous decades, they have been hard hit by the recent recession which has left them with rapidly rising unemployment and declining revenues; and

WHEREAS, because local governments are prohibited by law from carrying a budget deficit, they have been forced to make severe cuts in critical public services such as police officers, fire fighters, teachers, medical and emergency workers and bus drivers; and

WHEREAS, there was a net loss of 4.16 million jobs last year sending the national unemployment rate from 7.7 percent to over 10 percent; and while unemployment rates seem to have peaked in the first quarter of 2010 averaging 10.2 percent between January-March, they remain drastically high in some regions--topping 15 percent in 20 metro areas, 12 percent in 74 metro areas and 10 percent in 135 metro areas; and among the 25 areas with the highest unemployment rate in the country, eleven are in California, seven in Michigan and two in Illinois and Florida; and

WHEREAS, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) or the so called stimulus package has been successful in creating jobs nationally, unemployment rates have skyrocketed in many metro areas reaching 18 percent in Modesto, CA; 16.4 percent in Detroit-Warren-Livonia, MI; 12.4 percent in Toledo, OH and 12.3 percent in Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL; and

WHEREAS, during a time when critical local services have suffered from huge budget cuts, ARRA provided very little direct aid to local governments to help them with their budget shortfalls and avoid further layoffs; and

WHEREAS, House Education and Labor Committee Chairman George Miller worked closely with the leadership of The U.S. Conference of Mayors in crafting the Local Jobs for America Act, which would provide direct aid to local governments to help them avoid further layoffs of critical workers and hire new workers to help put America back to work,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress and the President to pass HR 4812, the Local Jobs for America Act which will provide $75 billion over two years in direct funding to cities with populations over 50,000 to put millions of people to work by restoring services in local communities, in both public and private sector jobs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges support for investments in our metro areas to improve infrastructures that have been under-funded relative to the reasonable measures of their economic contributions. Close attention must be paid to the relationship between the economic health of our nation’s metro areas and the health of the nation as a whole. The national economy can recover more quickly by more directly delegating federal funds to cities and their metro economies.
CREATION OF A NATIONAL ECONOMIC RESTORATION AND COUNTERCYCLICAL PROGRAM

WHEREAS, many recessions or economic downturns within the national economy over the past forty years have been regional in nature; and

WHEREAS, economic recovery following national recessions and regional downturns vary dramatically from metro to metro, with many cities facing slower recoveries as measured by GMP growth and job creation; and

WHEREAS, according to The U.S. Conference of Mayors in its recently released report, “U.S. Metro Economies--Pace of Economic Recovery: GMP and Jobs (January 2010), U.S. metro area unemployment will remain painfully high, with over 105 metros having more than 10% unemployment by the end of 2011; and 117 metros, almost one-third, having more than 8% unemployment by the end of 2013; and

WHEREAS, according to a survey conducted by The U.S. Conference of Mayors in October of 2009, many cities face much higher unemployment rates and numbers of unemployed compared to their larger metro areas; and

WHEREAS, a large number of metros will remain in recession or will not regain their pre-recession levels of employment until well beyond 2015,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to create a National Economic Restoration and Countercyclical Program that would automatically make funds available to metro areas or select jurisdictions within such areas, that are in recession or have persistently high rates of unemployment; and

BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the program fund infrastructure development, modern transportation facilities, economic development initiatives, and job creation incentives, subject to approval of a local/regional economic restoration plan submitted by cities, approved by the Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration in consultation with the U.S. Departments of Housing and Urban Development, Transportation, and the Department of Labor; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Department of Labor and the Department of Commerce determine annually which cities and metro areas qualify to receive such funding by meeting the economic distress criteria as established in the authorizing legislation.
DIRECT FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO CITIES

WHEREAS, United States cities from large urban centers to small suburban villages are facing mounting budget shortfalls and very difficult choices about how to fund vital city services for residents; and

WHEREAS, the steps cities are being forced to take to address budget shortfalls includes: laying off substantial numbers of employees; imposing unpaid furlough days and wage reductions; eliminating or reducing critical city services; imposing substantial tax increases; and increasing fees for services; and

WHEREAS, for most cities, the strength of local revenues is dependent on the key areas of the economy which are suffering tremendous losses during this recession, including employment, consumer spending and the real estate market; and

WHEREAS, it is widely believed that fiscal recovery for cities will lag behind a broader, national economic recovery; and

WHEREAS, while the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) stimulus funds were key to helping the growing number of people in need and providing essential infrastructure investment for cities, the ARRA funds did not directly address the revenue losses most cities are experiencing; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors reported that less than 1% of ARRA funds were provided directly to cities, and while ARRA has provided billions to help states alleviate budget shortfalls, no such assistance was provided to cities; and

WHEREAS, in the 1970s, the federal government enacted two programs to provide assistance to local governments: the General Revenue Sharing program and the Anti-Recession Fiscal Assistance Program; and

WHEREAS, those fiscal assistance programs were intended to support local governments in an economic downturn, primarily to stabilize their budgets and preempt budgetary actions that might otherwise run counter to federal fiscal policy; and

WHEREAS, cities are in critical need of federal assistance to help stabilize local budgets until the economic recovery is fully realized in local revenue sources,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Conference urges the United States Congress to develop a program for direct financial assistance to cities based on defined criteria such as the extent to which cities’ revenues have contracted since 2008; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Conference believes cities should be granted the authority to re-program unallocated recovery funds or other federal grant funds toward critical city services.
OPPOSING EFFORTS TO LIMIT ONLINE TRAVEL COMPANIES’ OBLIGATIONS TO COLLECT AND REMIT LOCAL HOTEL OCCUPANCY TAXES

WHEREAS, online travel companies (OTCs) such as Expedia, Priceline, Travelocity, Orbitz and Hotels.com are collecting state and local hotel occupancy taxes from consumers but only remitting a fraction of such taxes to state and local governments; and

WHEREAS, many hotels contract with OTCs in order to increase the occupancy of their hotel rooms, and provide OTCs a discounted rate for each room they book online; and

WHEREAS, OTCs charge consumers the full retail room rate when booking a room online and collect state and local hotel occupancy taxes based on the full retail room rate, and they typically charge consumers a processing fee; and

WHEREAS, OTCs collect taxes based on the full retail rate that the consumer pays for the room, but they only submit to state and local governments hotel occupancy taxes based on the discounted rate of the room and pocket the difference; and

WHEREAS, to illustrate this problem, assume that an OTC contracts with a hotel to offer rooms to consumers at a rate of $200.00 per day plus appropriate taxes and fees; and assume that the hotel agrees to provide the OTC a 20 percent discount for each room that it books online; this would mean that the OTC will charge consumers $200.00 for the room and if a local government has a 5 percent hotel occupancy tax, the OTC will collect $10.00 for a total of $210.00 per day; and after collecting the money from consumers, the OTC submits $160 ($200.00 minus the 20% discount) to the hotel, send $8.00 (5% of the discounted rate, $160.00) to the local government instead of the $10.00 that is actually due, and pockets $2.00, claiming it as a processing fee; and

WHEREAS, the minimum annual revenue loss that state and local governments are estimated to realize from OTCs will exceed $1 billion and increase to $8.5 billion if hotels, in order to avoid being left in a competitively disadvantaged position, adopt the OTCs’ business model of booking rooms online and pocketing a portion of local revenues; and

WHEREAS, many local governments have filed lawsuits and initiated other collection actions against OTCs to compel them to submit taxes to local governments' based on the full retail room rate charged to the consumer, and more than 40 lawsuits are pending nationwide along with an unknown number of administrative collection efforts; and

WHEREAS, OTCs are seeking federal legislation that would limit state and local governments ability to collect taxes from OTCs by not only exempting OTCs from remitting taxes on the full retail price of the room but may also exempt the payment of any hotel occupancy tax on rooms booked by OTCs;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to oppose any legislation that would grant OTCs a tax exemption that terminates existing obligations, or bars future obligations to pay hotel taxes to state and local governments, or otherwise restrict legal actions filed by them.
WHEREAS, there are 78 million baby boomers of whom 10 million will be entering retirement over the next 5 years; and

WHEREAS, retiring baby boomers have significantly underestimated the cost of retirement or how they might finance it; and

WHEREAS, retirees have been caught in the middle of the recent market downturn, rising healthcare costs, and falling house values; and

WHEREAS, one-third of all American households do not have any form of retirement savings beyond Social Security; and

WHEREAS, poverty rates among all American households have increased from 12.5 percent to 13.2 percent in 2008 and it is expected to continue rising in the coming years; and

WHEREAS, lower- and middle-income households are the least prepared and will be impacted dramatically as they realize that their Social Security will not cover their expenses; and

WHEREAS, many baby boomers plan to continue working beyond retirement, however unexpected downsizing, personal illness, disability or having to care for a loved one has not been factored into their plan; and

WHEREAS, some retirees planned to sell their home for cheaper living arrangements, however of those starting to retire, 7% were actually able to re-locate; and

WHEREAS, a trend towards greater individual responsibility for retirement security will continue as employer and government balance sheets are challenged; and

WHEREAS, baby boomers are increasingly anxious about their retirement security but are uncertain about how to solve their problems and will need help; and

WHEREAS, those individuals who are least prepared will look increasingly at local, state and federal government for resources to help during their retirement years; and

WHEREAS, having a financial plan can mitigate the risks of not being prepared for retirement, but fewer than one-third of baby boomers 55 and older have a plan; and

WHEREAS, Oakland, California has hosted two financial planning clinics in which free financial planning advice was provided by financial professionals who were not allowed to market or promote their businesses or product; and

WHEREAS, the financial planning clinic hosted by Oakland provided a safe “sales free” environment where low-income individuals benefited from the expertise of financial
professionals whose sole objective was to provide one-to-one personalized financial information for a full day; and

WHEREAS, by preventing financial services companies from marketing or “branding” the event and through a partnership with the Oakland Mayor, participants were more trusting of the information and less suspicious of the motives behind the effort,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the United States Conference of Mayors urges Congress to adopt a budget resolution to support the creation of financial planning clinics to be held once a year during Financial Planning Month (October) in various cities across America. This investment would enable local and state government to promote pro-bono financial planning services without having to rely on or be beholden to financial services companies.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the USCM’s DollarWISE Campaign commit to working with nationally recognized non-profit financial planning organizations as partners to draw upon the population of financial planners to host pro-bono financial planning clinics throughout the United States during Financial Planning Month (October).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the USCM support and commit to not allowing financial companies or planning professionals to actively market or promote their particular business, products, or services before, during, or after such clinics.
SUPPORTING FINANCIAL PRESCRIPTIONS FOR ENERGY RETROFITS OF EXISTING BUILDINGS

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors has previously adopted resolutions calling on cities and the federal government to take actions to reduce fossil fuel consumption and global warming pollution; and

WHEREAS, the building sector contributes over one third of all global greenhouse gas emissions released into the atmosphere each year and represents the single largest, most accessible opportunity for deep emission cuts and in the U.S., the building sector accounts for 39% of the nation’s energy use and 72% of U.S. electricity use; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. can save up to $140 billion a year by making our buildings more efficient, while significantly reducing energy and other resource consumption; and

WHEREAS, today’s buildings will constitute a majority of all buildings in the U.S. in 2050 and without a focused effort to reduce retrofit existing buildings and make them more resource efficient, it will be virtually impossible to meet the greenhouse gas emission reduction targets called for in the U.S. Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the large-scale retrofitting of existing buildings will spur job formation resulting in green careers; and

WHEREAS, Energy Financing Districts (Property-Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) and Benefit-Assessed Clean Energy (BACE), Clean Energy Assessment Districts (CEAD), Contractual Assessments, Sustainable Energy Financing, or Special Tax Districts) provide a means for cities to offer financing for commercial or residential energy efficiency retrofits.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors calls upon state legislatures who have not already done so to adopt enabling legislation to allow for Energy Financing Districts to be established in their states and encourages members of the U.S. Conference of Mayors to use Energy Financing Districts as a means to finance the retrofitting of existing buildings.
IMPROVED TRANSIT FUNDING

WHEREAS, major surface transportation investment programs confer significant benefits on cities, including: building the infrastructure necessary to support economic growth and goods movement; creating high quality jobs designing, building, operating, and maintaining the infrastructure; and improving the sustainability and livability of our cities through improved mobility and reduced mobile source emissions; and

WHEREAS, the federal government can leverage its limited resources further if local jurisdictions invest in themselves and increase the amount of matching funds available for transportation projects; and

WHEREAS, local jurisdictions have approved increased sales tax measures to generate funding for regional transportation programs, demonstrating their financial commitment to improved regional transportation systems and reducing the federal share typically needed for federally assisted transportation projects; and

WHEREAS, the federal and state governments have previously partnered with localities to leverage local tax revenues through state infrastructure banks, TIFIA loan financing, and tax enhancements under such programs as Build America Bonds; and

WHEREAS, since 1997, Congress has enacted many separate programs authorizing state and local governments to issue tax-preferred debt at or near zero percent for purposes such as public education, disaster recovery, clean renewable energy, forestry conservation and energy conservation and the federal interest subsidies are designed to provide federal buy-downs of 70 to 100 percent of borrowers’ interest expense; and

WHEREAS, transportation infrastructure is equally, if not more so, important to the economic future of our cities, states, and country; and

WHEREAS, major transportation projects should receive similar treatment given the demand for such projects at a time when early construction of these projects can be done at the lowest possible cost and have the most profound impact on creating sustainable jobs; and

WHEREAS, TIFIA provides critical, flexible funding for major transit projects but cannot obligate funds and lock in interest rates until each project is ready-to-go thereby preventing transit agencies from fully taking advantage of market conditions; and

WHEREAS, reauthorization of SAFETEA-LU offers an opportunity to expand the scope of the TIFIA program, allowing USDOT to make an upfront credit commitment for projects that satisfy national infrastructure goals,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urge Congress to expand existing and/or establish new federal tax preferred bond programs with very high subsidies that would allow state and local governments to issue tax-preferred debt at or near zero percent interest for transportation projects that meet national criteria, such as reduction of greenhouse gas, and already have significant non-federal sources committed; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to modify the TIFIA loan program to enable USDOT to make an upfront credit commitment to a project sponsor at an earlier stage of development for projects that already have the majority of non-federal funding committed and that would reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE CREATION OF SPECIAL PURPOSE CORPORATIONS OWNED BY MUNICIPAL OR OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES THAT WOULD ALLOW MINORITY EQUITY INVESTMENT BY PRIVATE SECTOR INVESTORS

WHEREAS, the US Conference of Mayors and the Mayors Water Council recognize that the cost of replacing or improving the nation’s water and wastewater infrastructure are expected to exceed a Trillion Dollars over the next twenty years in order to comply with the Clean Water Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act; and

WHEREAS, the effects of a worldwide recession, its impact on economic conditions in the United States, including its banking and other credit institutions have resulted in a severe decline in the ability of cities to issue debt securities; and

WHEREAS, Federal and State financial support of municipal water and wastewater rebuilding program (through municipal participation in SRF, grants, stimulus or other programs) that have been under consideration for a very long time, will continue to decline as Federal and State governments balance their responsibilities for other national infrastructure needs, national healthcare reform and continued support of national defense initiatives; and

WHEREAS, most municipalities will be unable to raise sufficient capital through the issuance of debt instruments alone to rebuild the assets to achieve compliance with the Water Acts or replace compliant assets that are simply no longer efficient; and

WHEREAS, the US Conference of Mayors and the Mayors Water Council recognize that considerable (estimated to be in the Billions of Dollars) private equity investment funds, and municipal and other government-owned pension plans, have a strong desire to invest in municipal water and wastewater infrastructure and would benefit from the income stream generated by the fees charged for these services; and

WHEREAS, the capital structure of most municipal-owned utilities is weighted heavily by equity capital that provides little benefit to a municipality when seeking favorable credit ratings, and is in great contrast to investor-owned utilities’ capital structure, including investor-owned water and wastewater utilities; and

WHEREAS, there is a beneficial opportunity for municipalities to monetize a portion of the excess equity they possess to either invest in their asset rebuilding program, or utilize proceeds to fund structural budget deficits; and

WHEREAS, there does not exist today an approved organizational structure that would permit an equity investment by a third party to form a true partnership in joint ownership with a municipally-controlled business enterprise such as a water or wastewater utility; and

WHEREAS, the US Conference of Mayors and the Mayors Water Council recognize that there are both Federal tax law barriers as well as State law barriers (that vary by state) which may need to be amended in order to permit the creation of a true sharing of municipal and private equity ownership (CAPES Model 1); and
WHEREAS, the creation of such new organizational structure would neither increase nor decrease Federal revenues resulting from existing tax law or application of the tax code.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the US Conference of Mayors urges the Congress of the United States to amend its tax codes and other regulations and encourage state legislatures to adopt legislation that would allow municipalities to create special purpose corporations for purposes of owning and operating its water and wastewater systems and that would further:

- Allow a municipality the right to sell up to 49% of the equity interest in the corporation to third party investors, including government owned pension plans
- Allow the transfer of all regulatory responsibilities, including wastewater effluent discharge permits and clean water withdrawal permits, including compliance with other regulatory orders or court mandated compliances, to the new corporation
- Grant the corporations the right to issue tax exempt debt, participate in SRF programs and other benefits from acts of Congress providing direct benefits to the sponsoring municipality.
- CAPES – City and Private Equity Sharing
REGIONAL INNOVATION CLUSTERS TO STRENGTHEN COMPETITIVENESS AND PRODUCTIVITY OF REGIONAL ECONOMIES

WHEREAS, metropolitan leaders must contend with spurring economic productivity and quality job growth to safely lead their regions to recovery from today’s economic crisis; and

WHEREAS, technological innovation in products, processes, as well as institutional innovation underlie productivity growth; and

WHEREAS, U.S.-based operations of numerous industries have not been fully effective in adopting innovation to successfully respond to changing market conditions, including competitive challenges from abroad; and

WHEREAS, regional industry clusters promote innovation by providing thick cross-institutional networks that facilitate technology transfer, knowledge sharing, and improved access to specialized labor, materials, and equipment; and

WHEREAS, strong clusters are positively correlated with increased patenting, greater entrepreneurship, and higher wages; and

WHEREAS, the nation’s network of cluster initiatives to promote the growth and development of strong, competitive regional clusters is thin and uneven in terms of geographic and industry coverage; and

WHEREAS, current federal economic development programs are inadequate to support competitive regional clusters; and

WHEREAS, the federal government is fairly alone among the world’s development countries in its passive stance toward regional competitiveness and cluster development,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors supports fully funding initiatives proposed in the FY2011 budget request that would support Regional Innovation Clusters, including the Economic Development Administration’s $75 million Regional Innovation Clusters program; the Small Business Administration’s $11 million effort to align with clusters; the National Science Foundation’s $12 million Innovation Ecosystems program; the Department of Agriculture’s Regional Innovation Initiatives; and the Department of Labor’s Workforce Innovation Fund; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to reauthorize the America COMPETES legislation, including the new provision (sec. 503 of H.R. 5116) for a regional innovation clusters grant program in the Commerce Department that would award funds to support the development of regional innovation strategies, and create a research and information program to gather and disseminate best practices in regional innovation strategies and collect and make available data on U.S. clusters; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to change the current language about the proposed regional innovation clusters program in the America
COMPETES reauthorization bill (sec. 503 of H.R. 5116) to clarify that awards would not go to narrow, individual cluster projects, but rather regional programs that promote cluster initiatives more generally, in order to enhance regional flexibility and capacity to respond to economic change, improve the likelihood of success, and increase cooperation among regional actors.
CALLING ON CONGRESS AND THE ADMINISTRATION TO INCREASE FUNDING FOR THE EPA CLIMATE SHOWCASE GRANTS FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

WHEREAS, commercial, residential and public buildings are responsible for more than 40 percent of the nation’s greenhouse gas emissions nationwide and cities are best suited to improve building codes, foster community-scale renewable energy, and create other programs and incentives to increase efficiency and reduce energy use in commercial and residential buildings; and

WHEREAS, the transportation sector produces one third of the nation’s greenhouse gas emissions and cities can substantially reduce emissions and vehicle-miles traveled by promoting public transit and more effective land use and transportation planning; and

WHEREAS, cities have been laboratories of innovation, successfully pioneering and demonstrating cost-effective clean energy solutions; and

WHEREAS, over 1,025 mayors have signed The U.S. Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, pledging their commitment to reducing their communities’ greenhouse gas emissions by 7 percent from their 1990 levels; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors has endorsed an 80 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from 1990 levels by 2050; and

WHEREAS, more than 430 local elected leaders from across America have called for additional federal resources for communities to implement greenhouse gas reduction and sustainability initiatives by endorsing the Climate Communities/ICLEI-USA Empowering Local Government Climate Action Blueprint; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is authorized under the Clean Air Act, via 42 U.S.C. Section 7403(a) & (b), to make grants to public agencies for demonstration projects to control and prevent air pollution; and

WHEREAS, Congress provided $10 million in both Fiscal Year 2009 and 2010 for the EPA to provide grants to local governments to establish and implement climate change initiatives; and

WHEREAS, this grant program, dubbed by EPA as the ‘Climate Showcase Communities’ program is the only current ongoing source of federal funding that supports city initiatives to address climate change; and

WHEREAS, the Climate Showcase Communities program is one of the federal government’s most competitive grant programs, with funding awarded to less than 6% of Fiscal Year 2009 applicants; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the US Conference of Mayors calls upon Congress and the Administration to support increased funding for the Climate Showcase Communities program in Fiscal Year 2011 and in future years.
DESIGNATING WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES

WHEREAS, it should be recognized that the implementation of the Clean Water Act has had dramatically positive results in improving public waters. These improvements have come from actions and expenditures by federal, state and local governments and by private sector actions and investments, with the predominance of those actions and expenditures in the past two decades being made by local governments and their rate payers; and

WHEREAS, it should be recognized that these results have occurred under the current language in the law that respects exclusive state authority over non-navigable, isolated, intrastate waters and the adjacent land by including a distinction between waters that are navigable and those that are not; and

WHEREAS, it is recognized that Congress adopts laws within the bounds of the Constitution, and the Federal government promulgates regulations according to the Administrative Procedures Act, to protect citizens, property and the natural resources and the environment; and

WHEREAS, it is a longstanding principle of American government that the Constitution enumerates the powers of the Federal government, and those powers that are not enumerated reside in the sovereign powers of the States of the Union; and

WHEREAS, there is legislation pending in Congress that would substantially increase the scope of existing law and regulation by expanding Federal jurisdiction under the Clean Water Act to encompass all interstate and intrastate waters and impose significant and unknown costs on both the public and private sectors; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors opposes legislation to expand Federal jurisdiction under the Clean Water Act. However if the pending legislation is approved by congress, the USCM resolves that the costs incurred in its implementation are born solely and entirely by the Federal government and its agencies and not levied as an unfunded mandate on the public and private sectors, and.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors supports inclusion of a provision in the proposed legislation that directs the Environmental Protection Agency to conduct an analysis of every regulation proposed under the authority of an expanded Clean Water Act to determine the cost of every regulation before it is promulgated, and to confer with state and local government to review such analyses, before promulgation, and secure Congressional appropriations to be disbursed directly to state and local government to pay for the costs imposed by any regulation thereof before such regulations are to be in effect.
ALIGNED FEDERAL POLICY ON FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE, AND SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

WHEREAS, in 1977, President Carter issued Executive Order 11988 “in order to avoid to the extent possible the long and short term adverse impacts associated with the occupancy and modification of floodplains. . .” and the Order directed all federal agencies to exercise judgment in seeking to reduce flood damage, and impacts to floodplains, by not issuing permits or providing funds for floodplain development where practicable alternatives existed; and

WHEREAS, the Order defines a “floodplain” as “the lowland and relatively flat areas adjoining inland and coastal waters, including flood prone areas of offshore land, including at a minimum, that area subject to a one percent or greater chance of flooding in any given year.” Thus, the Order creates a simple line between the activities that occur out of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (“FEMA”) regulated floodplain (these activities are not affected) and activities that occur within the FEMA regulated floodplain (these activities are affected); and

WHEREAS, in the 1970s, most significant flood protection facilities were constructed by the Army Corps of Engineers (“Corps”) which, recognizing FEMA’s use of the 100 year floodplain as relevant for development restrictions, were designed to provide at least 100 year flood protection; and

WHEREAS, once these projects were constructed by the Corps, it was assumed that the protected community would continue to enjoy at least 100 year flood protection, and the restrictive power of the Order would not apply to these existing urban communities; and

WHEREAS, new data and new understandings of levee failure mechanisms, coupled with historic storms, have caused the federal agencies to reclassify urban areas, formerly with at least 100 years flood protection, to now having less than 100 year flood protection; and

WHEREAS, beginning in 2008, a working group of staff from the Corps and FEMA developed a draft update to the Order which reiterates the policies of the Order and further seeks to impose more rigorous standards on Federal agencies’ attempted implementation of the Order; and

WHEREAS, decertification of urban areas coupled with a more stringent Order could result in severe new restrictions on Federal spending and permits in existing urban areas, including limitations on the ability of new homeowners to take advantage of HUD loans; and

WHEREAS, application of the Order has the potential to push people out of the dense urban core of many regions and into remote suburban areas, often located in uplands and foothills, because these upland and foothill areas do not have the limitations associated with communities at risk of flood; and

WHEREAS, this induced change in land use and transportation runs exactly counter to the Sustainable Communities Initiative and other related federal policies, and to municipal, regional, state, and federal efforts to significantly reduce the emission of greenhouse gases; and
WHEREAS, the nation and its cities will be unable to meet their greenhouse gas reduction targets if floodplain restrictions preclude federal investment in existing urban areas in 500-year floodplains; and

WHEREAS, in the Sacramento region, for example, the sustainable urban-centered growth strategy directs most growth to the urban floodplain and thereby (1) reduces overall land consumption in the floodplain by 90,000 acres by shifting from 42% to 12% greenfield development, (2) reduces per capita vehicle miles traveled and per capita greenhouse emissions, (3) reduces population and land consumption in the upper watershed and near wetlands and vernal pools, and (4) reduces water consumption; and

WHEREAS, with decertification of levees by the Corps also comes de-accreditation of those same levees by FEMA under the National Flood Insurance Program (“NFIP”). The NFIP requires that FEMA designate lands according to the risk of flooding. Zone X is applied to lands that have at least 100 year flood protection (protection from the “base flood”). When lands do not have at least 100 year flood protection, those lands are typically placed into an AE Zone, at which time new building construction cannot occur unless structures are elevated above the 100 year floodplain. However, the AE Zone limits the ability of local communities to collect development fees on new structures, thus eliminating a key funding stream for flood protection improvements; and

WHEREAS, the NFIP special flood hazard zones that would best acknowledge the decreased level of flood protection but still allow additional funding for levee improvements are A99 and AR, which allow limited building coupled with good floodplain management practices. However, the criteria to meet eligibility for these zones have been narrowly interpreted to largely only apply to flood improvement projects authorized and funded by the Federal Government, thus limiting their application and delaying many regions in their goal of reducing flood risk through flood protection improvements. This distinction between federal and non-federal authorization and funding is a relic of the era when the Federal Government was the only entity that could reliably construct flood protection projects; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that, the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges the President to expressly align federal policy on floodplain management, including Executive Order 11988, regulations implementing the National Flood Insurance Program, and the National Objectives, Principles, and Standards for Water and Related Resources, with the Administration’s policy initiatives on Climate Change and Sustainable Communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, the U.S. Conference of Mayors opposes the adoption of federal policies that would disinvest in existing urbanized areas within floodplains or reverse state and regional efforts to promote more sustainable land use and transportation patterns which reduce greenhouse gas emissions by directing new growth to those existing urbanized areas; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, the U.S. Conference of Mayors calls for modernization of the AR and A99 Special Flood Hazard Zones under the National Flood Insurance Program consistent with the following principles: (i) for A99 Zones, to clarify that the A99 Zone designation is available to communities without respect to the level of Federal investment or participation in the improvements and to clarify the methodology for meeting the 50%
completion requirement and 50% expenditure requirement by recognizing the value that the existing levees contribute toward the cost of achieving base flood protection; and (ii) for AR Zones, to establish equitable timeframes for completing levee restoration for an AR Zone so that local communities have the same 10 years offered for projects constructed by the Corps and to create alternative methodologies, such as certification by a professional engineer with peer review, for demonstrating the minimum qualification criteria of at least 33-year protection.
ENDING CHILDHOOD OBESITY WITHIN A GENERATION

WHEREAS, the childhood obesity epidemic in America is a national crisis; and

WHEREAS, one in every three children (31.7%) ages 2 – 19 is overweight or obese; and

WHEREAS, obesity is estimated to cause 112,000 deaths per year in the United States and one third of all children born in the year 2000 are expected to develop diabetes during their lifetime; and

WHEREAS, childhood obesity imposes substantial economic costs. Each year, obese adults incur an estimated $1,429 more in medical expenses than their normal-weight peers and childhood obesity is estimated to cost $3 billion per year in direct medical costs; and

WHEREAS, the life-threatening consequences of this epidemic create a compelling and critical call to action that can’t be ignored; and

WHEREAS, President Obama established a White House Task Force on Childhood Obesity in February 2010 and the Task Force has completed its action plan; and

WHEREAS, First Lady Michelle Obama has launched her “Let’s Move” Campaign which focuses on 1) empowering parents and caregivers; 2) providing healthy food in schools; 3) improving access to healthy affordable foods; and 4) increasing physical activity;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors applauds the President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama for their commitment to solve the problem of childhood obesity in a generation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Mayors to adopt and implement the recommendations of the White House Task Force on Childhood Obesity including:

- Creating a healthy start on life for our children, from pregnancy through early childhood;
- Empowering parents and caregivers to make health choices for their families;
- Serving healthier food in schools;
- Ensuring access to healthy, affordable food; and
- Increasing opportunities for physical activity.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Mayors to raise awareness of the racial and ethnic, socioeconomic and regional disparities which impact the high rates obesity across populations and work to address those disparities in their cities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors and the nation’s Mayors stand ready to work in partnership with the President and First Lady to begin implementing the
recommendations of the White House Taskforce on Childhood Obesity and will work to engage public and private leaders in this effort.
SUPPORT FOR AMERICA’S ZOOS AND AQUARIUMS

WHEREAS, public zoos and aquariums serve as anchors for community development, tourism, and economic growth; and

WHEREAS, public zoos and aquariums enhance local and regional economies, collectively generating $8.4 billion in U.S. economic activity, supporting more than 126,000 jobs and generating $2.65 billion in personal earnings; and

WHEREAS, public zoos and aquariums serve as centers for conservation involvement in their communities, providing 180 million annual visitors with essential connections to the natural world; and

WHEREAS, public zoos and aquariums serve as indispensable educational and training resources, with a special emphasis on science education for children and youth from underserved populations; and

WHEREAS, public zoos and aquariums are working to conserve our nation’s wildlife heritage through conservation breeding, habitat preservation, field conservation, and research; and

WHEREAS, the recession has created unprecedented pressure on both municipal budgets and the philanthropic community – two critical sources of funding for public zoos and aquariums; and

WHEREAS, Congress excluded public zoos and aquariums from receiving much-needed recovery funds under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act; and

WHEREAS, Congress continues to consider legislation to create jobs and strengthen the U.S. economy; and

WHEREAS, public investment in zoos and aquariums around the country is a worthy investment that will save and create thousands of jobs and help continue excellent conservation education programs for the nation’s children for years to come;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on Congress, working with bipartisan urgency, to bolster America’s public zoos and aquariums, ensuring their eligibility for Federal support in future legislation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Congress and the Administration, through laws, regulations and policies, are urged to work with U.S. Conference of Mayors to support the education, conservation and community development missions of public zoos and aquariums that are so valuable to our nation’s children, to our local economies and to the future of our planet.
WHEREAS, the arts, humanities and museums are critical to the quality of life and livability of America's cities; and

WHEREAS, the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), and the Office of Museum Services (OMS) within the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) are the primary federal agencies that provide federal funding for the arts, humanities and museum programs, activities, and efforts in the cities and states of America; and

WHEREAS, the NEA's and the NEH's 44 years of promoting cultural heritage and vitality throughout the nation has built a cultural infrastructure in this nation of arts and humanities agencies in every state, more than 100,000 nonprofit arts organizations, and 5,000 local arts agencies in cities throughout the country; and

WHEREAS, federal arts funding leverages up to seven times more in matching funds from state and local governments, private foundations, corporations and individuals in communities across the nation to support the highest quality cultural programs in the nation; and

WHEREAS, federal arts funding to cities, towns and states has helped stimulate the growth of local arts agencies in America's cities and counties with $765 million annually in local government funding, almost $300 million in state government funding to the arts, and $12.8 billion in private giving to the arts; and

WHEREAS, federal funding for cultural activities stimulates local economies and improves the quality of civic life throughout the country — the NEA, NEH and IMLS support programs, such as the Mayors’ Institute on City Design (MICD) that enhance community development, promote cultural planning, stimulate business development, spur urban renewal, attract new businesses, draw significant cultural tourism dollars, and improve the overall quality of life in our cities and towns; and

WHEREAS, federal funding for cultural activities is essential to promote full access to and participation in exhibits, performances, arts education and other cultural events regardless of family income; and

WHEREAS, the NEA is celebrating the 25th Anniversary of MICD by awarding competitive community development grants ranging from $25,000 to $250,000 to those cities whose mayors participated in the program over the last 25 years; and

WHEREAS, the NEA has also announced its new “Our Town” initiative, investing a proposed $5 million in up to 35 communities to support planning and design projects, and arts engagement strategies; and

WHEREAS, while state and local financial support for the arts has fallen, federal support has risen, helping to stabilize some local arts and cultural organizations and additional NEA funding to support a competitive local re-granting program should be re-established to provide incentives

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for local governments to invest in targeted ways in the arts by infusing $5-10 million in new dedicated federal funding to local arts agencies, which would be matched to spur new local investment; and

**WHEREAS**, the NEA plays a very important role in developing partnerships with other federal agencies such as HUD, Education and Transportation, in order to open new channels for arts organizations to work with all aspects of government; and

**WHEREAS**, Congress has increased appropriations for the NEA for the last 10 consecutive years and is currently funded at $167.5 million, this level still does not restore the agency to its previous high levels; and

**WHEREAS**, The United States Conference of Mayors has unanimously passed policy resolutions partnered with Americans for the Arts on Arts Advocacy Day to send letters to the President and leaders of the U.S. Senate and House to increase federal funding for the arts and humanities; and,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that The United States Conference of Mayors reaffirms its support of the National Endowment for the Arts, National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Office of Museum Services within the Institute of Museum and Library Services and calls upon Congress to restore full funding for these agencies in the FY 2011 appropriations bills at a level of $180 million and to adopt a formal re-granting partnership program for local arts agencies to help the NEA better serve arts organizations of all sizes in communities across the country; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the federal government to invest in nonprofit arts organizations through local arts agencies as a catalyst to generate economic impact, create jobs, stimulate business development, spur urban renewal, attract tourists and area residents to community activities, and to improve the overall quality of life in America’s cities.
NATIONAL ARTS INDEX FOR 2009, AN ANNUAL MEASURE OF THE VITALITY OF THE ARTS AND CULTURE IN THE UNITED STATES

WHEREAS, Americans for the Arts, a long-time partner with The United States Conference of Mayors, conducted four years of research and development to create a National Arts Index, a highly-distilled annual measure of the health and vitality of the arts in the United States using 76 national-level indicators of arts and culture activates; and

WHEREAS, the report covers an 11 year period, from 1998 to 2008 and encompasses one of the largest collections of data on arts and culture in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the 2008 National Arts Index score is 98.4, a decline of 4.2 points from its 2007 score of 102.6 with a benchmark of 100 points in 2003; and

WHEREAS, findings from the National Arts Index study were presented at a press conference at the National Press Club and Honolulu Mayor Mufi Hannemann spoke and represented The United States Conference of Mayors at this event; and

WHEREAS, the National Arts Index reveals financial and programmatic trends within the arts sector:

- Public participation in the arts has grown but the ways in which the public participates in and consumes the arts is changing
- Arts employment has grown steadily over the past decade
- The number of nonprofit arts organizations grows annually, yet one in three fail to achieve a balanced budget
- The subsidy model is struggling
- Funding for the arts follows closely behind the national business cycle
- Arts organizations continue to create new work and more individuals are creating their own art
- Demand for arts education is up, but it also reveals a disparity among socio-economic levels
- The number of arts businesses is growing, but success is inconsistent over time
- The competitiveness of the arts for resources and investment is slipping; and

WHEREAS, Americans for the Arts is also conducting a Local Arts Index in 100 cities across the country. Like the national index, the Local Arts Index will be a highly-distilled, annual measure of the health and vitality of the arts at the local level, enabling mayors to efficiently track their city’s arts sector year-to-year as well as make community-to-community comparisons.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors supports the conclusions of the National Arts Index for 2009 and urges mayors across the country to participate in the 2010 Local Arts Index study and to invest in nonprofit arts organizations through their local arts agencies as a catalyst to generate economic impact, stimulate business development, spur urban renewal, attract tourists and area residents to community activities, and to improve the overall quality of life in America’s cities.
WHEREAS, the arts and humanities enhance and enrich the lives of all Americans; and

WHEREAS, the arts and humanities affect every aspect of life in America today including the economy, social problem solving, job creation, education, creativity, and community livability; and

WHEREAS, cities and states – through their local and state arts agencies and representing thousands of cultural organizations – have celebrated the value and importance of culture in the lives of Americans and the health of thriving communities during National Arts and Humanities Month for several years; and

WHEREAS, the United States Conference of Mayors has actively participated in National Arts and Humanities Month since 1984; and

WHEREAS, the United States Conference of Mayors’ national arts partner, Americans for the Arts, will again coordinate this year a national awareness campaign of activities for National Arts and Humanities Month; and

WHEREAS, the nation’s 100,000 cultural organizations, the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the nation’s 5,000 local arts agencies, the arts and humanities councils of the 50 states and U.S. jurisdictions, and the President of the United States have participated in the past and will be asked to participate again this year in this national celebration; and

WHEREAS, the month of October 2010 has been designated as National Arts and Humanities Month, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the United States Conference of Mayors urges mayors to build partnerships with their local arts agencies and other members of the arts and humanities community in their cities to proclaim, to participate in, and to celebrate the month of October as National Arts and Humanities Month.
WHEREAS, jazz is an original American art form that affirms the noblest aspirations of our national character, individual discipline, perseverance, and innovation; and

WHEREAS, Jazz has produced some of America’s leading creative artists and ranks as one of America’s greatest exports to the world; and

WHEREAS, jazz has inspired dancers, choreographers, poets, novelists, filmmakers, classical composers, and musicians in many other kinds of music; and

WHEREAS, we honor and recognize the outstanding work that all jazz artists, educators, and enthusiasts present; and

WHEREAS, jazz has spoken eloquently of freedom for people in the United States and abroad, and has become an international language that bridges differences and brings people of all races, ages, and backgrounds together; and

WHEREAS, on April 1, 2011 cities will celebrate Jazz Day and mayors are encouraged to plan jazz related activities and programming; and

WHEREAS, The United States Conference of Mayors members participated in Jazz Appreciation Month for the past three years; and

WHEREAS, the month of April 2011 has been designated as Jazz Appreciation Month, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the United States Conference of Mayors urges mayors to build partnerships with their local jazz society and other members of the arts and music community in their cities to proclaim, to participate in, Jazz Day April 1, 2011 and to celebrate the month of April as Jazz Appreciation Month.
SUPPORT OF THE 2018/2022 FIFA WORLD CUP™ BID

WHEREAS, the United States Men’s National Soccer Team is competing with honor in the FIFA World Cup™ in South Africa from June 11 to July 11, 2010;

WHEREAS, the United States has now qualified for six consecutive FIFA World Cup™ competitions, ranking the men’s team among the world’s finest and signaling an era of unprecedented popularity and historic growth for the sport of soccer throughout our nation;

WHEREAS, the FIFA World Cup™ competition staged in the United States in 1994 served as a catalyst for said popularity and growth of the game, as well as the introduction of Major League Soccer, America’s national first division professional soccer league;

WHEREAS, the United States Soccer Federation has appointed the USA Bid Committee to campaign for the return of the FIFA World Cup™ to the United States in the years 2018 or 2022;

WHEREAS, the spirit of the USA Bid Committee’s campaign is to further grow and celebrate the game of soccer in a United States of more than 300 million diverse people, representing all nations that gather every four years to compete in or follow the FIFA World Cup™;

WHEREAS, the ultimate goal of a FIFA World Cup™ in the United States in 2018 or 2022 is to bring together people of all nations under one banner of peace, friendship and spirited but fair competition on the stage of the world’s most popular sport and athletic event;

WHEREAS, 18 American cities have been named by the USA Bid Committee as candidates to serve as hosts to FIFA World Cup™ matches should the United States be named as the host country for either the 2018 or 2022 competition;

WHEREAS, these 18 cities are represented in the official host nation application by the United States to FIFA, which will determine on December 2, 2010, the two nations that will serve as hosts to the 2018 and 2022 FIFA World Cup™ competitions;

WHEREAS, each of the 18 candidate cities already holds a place in the international community as a welcoming example of diversity and eagerly awaits being ambassadors to visiting athletes, officials, and guests;

WHEREAS, these 18 communities and more throughout the United States fully represent the essence of the USA Bid Committee’s message to FIFA and the entire global soccer community, “The Game is in US”;”

WHEREAS, all Americans can play their part and increase our country’s chance of being named host of the FIFA World Cup™ in 2018 or 2022 by adding his or her name to the online petition found at GOUSABID.COM;

WHEREAS, we agree that it is now time to build on prior success and bring the FIFA World Cup™ back to the United States and, that by hosting in 2018 or 2022, we can once again invite
the world to share in our love of the game and inspire a new generation of soccer enthusiasts in the United States;

WHEREAS, the USA Bid Committee and the United States Soccer Federation encourage outreach to the Executive Branch and Congress to ensure the full participation of the United States government in the pursuit to win the privilege of hosting the 2018 or 2022 FIFA World Cup™;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors supports the United States Men’s National Soccer Team as it competes in the 2010 FIFA World Cup™ in South Africa; encourages the United States government and the American people to support the United States FIFA World Cup™ Bid Committee as it competes for the privilege to host the FIFA World Cup™ in 2018 or 2022; and welcomes opportunities identified by the USA Bid Committee for all United States Mayors to advance these efforts.
SUPPORTING SPORTS-BASED YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AS CATALYST FOR SOCIAL CHANGE

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors recognizes that childhood obesity, youth crime, and academic performance are significant challenges to the healthy development of America’s youth throughout this nation’s cities and towns; and

WHEREAS, research has shown that:
- 33% of the nation’s children are overweight or obese by the 3rd grade, with higher numbers in low income areas; and
- more than 750,000 children throughout the country are in gangs; and
- the public school dropout rate is now 30%, and approaches 50% in many inner-city communities; and

WHEREAS, the structured activity and leadership of organized youth sports programs have been shown to be strong contributors to the healthy physical, social and academic development of our nation's children; and

WHEREAS, kids who play sports are more likely to stay active as adults and less likely to suffer from obesity and related chronic health conditions; and

WHEREAS, youth sports programs can potentially employ tens and thousands of adults, including returning veterans, as coaches in schools, community centers, and community-based organizations; and

WHEREAS, schools across America were forced to cut more than $2 billion of funding for youth sports programs in 2009 and resort to practices like pay-to-play which affect participation rates especially among the poor; and

WHEREAS, youth in urban, minority communities are is proportionately affected by the lack of organized sports;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors recognizes that sports-based youth development programs provide quality empowerment opportunities to help children and communities build and sustain healthy and safe cities, and adopts as its policy the pursuit of access for all American youth to quality sports programs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors calls for federal, state and local levels of government to support their cities and districts in investing in sports-based youth development by:

- Supporting strategies that expand the scope and capacity of sports-based youth development programs in cities so that
- every child has access to a sports program that promotes their physical, academic and social wellness;
• Supporting efforts that provide resources and training to existing sports programs in cities with the purpose of increasing their effectiveness on reducing childhood obesity, youth crime and school dropout rates;

• Supporting efforts to promote volunteerism in youth sports including the expansion of Coach Across America, that provides AmeriCorps members to serve as coaches in disadvantaged neighborhoods in cities;

• Recognizing the annual Coach Appreciation Week in September through local initiatives and activities that highlight the heroic volunteerism of sports coaches in promoting the wellbeing of our youth;

• Promoting community engagement in service learning projects that renovate recreational spaces for youth during key service learning days and throughout the year; and

• Encouraging collaboration between government agencies, non-profits and local business communities to promote joint use of resources, to attract funding, and to foster more research and evaluation that promotes quality in youth sports programming.
INVESTMENT IN THE ARTS

WHEREAS, the arts and culture industry are influential in shaping the quality of life for all Americans, enriching our communities for residents and visitors, and

WHEREAS, the arts affect every aspect of life in America including the economy, social problem solving, job creation, education, creativity, and community livability, and

WHEREAS, it is unarguable that the arts provide unprecedented learning opportunities to our children as well as stimulates and develops the imagination, critical thinking, and refines cognitive and creative skills, and

WHEREAS, the arts and culture industry generates $166.2 billion in economic activity every year, supporting 5.7 million jobs and generates $29.6 billion in government revenue, and

WHEREAS, governments which support the arts see an average return on investment of more than $7 in taxes for every $1 that the government appropriates, and

WHEREAS, in a number of communities throughout the country the arts have been brought to the forefront and used as a catalyst for economic revitalization, as well as improving the surrounding environment and overall quality of life, and

WHEREAS, local art agencies work to ensure the cultural, civic, educational and economic benefits of the arts are available to its citizens, and

WHEREAS, communities with culture and arts agencies have benefited from grant funding, infrastructure development, and strategic partnerships, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that in recognition of the importance the arts the United States Conference of Mayors call upon all mayors to establish culture and arts agencies to oversee the promotion and perpetuation of the arts, and arts economy in your communities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the United States Conference of Mayors call upon the President of the United States of America to promote arts and culture as a means of stimulating the economy and building livable communities.
WHEREAS, the No Child Left Behind Act of 2002 recognizes the arts as a core curriculum subject, allowing federal K-12 funds to support arts education; and

WHEREAS, such federal funds include Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as authorized through the No Child Left Behind Act, as well as funds for teacher training and professional development, technology, after-school and summer programs, and much more; and

WHEREAS, Congress has affirmed the importance of arts education by establishing a dedicated arts education program at the U.S. Department of Education to complement existing programs of the National Endowment for the Arts; and

WHEREAS, a child’s education is not complete unless it includes the arts; and

WHEREAS, a compendium of arts education research entitled Critical Links, released by the Arts Education Partnership, suggest the following:

• The arts help close the achievement gap for students from economically disadvantaged circumstances, as evidenced by improved test scores
• The arts improve academic skills essential for reading and language development
• The arts build strong mathematical skills
• The arts advance the motivation to learn
• The arts promote positive social development; and

WHEREAS, inner-city and rural children have not had the same opportunities as children living in wealthier districts to learn in, through, and about the arts; and

WHEREAS, local arts agencies, artists, and arts institutions and organizations stand ready and willing to work with school districts and teachers to improve arts education,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that members of The United States Conference of Mayors urge local school districts and administrators to maximize the use of federal education funds available through the above-named programs, as well as state funds where permissible, to deliver high-quality arts instruction and to integrate the arts into other core subjects. We urge the Congress to appropriate $53 million for the Arts in Education program at the U.S. Department of Education, which will support the further development and dissemination of effective models for improving the quantity and quality of arts education. We further urge the establishment of a national artist corps program to provide services and assistance to schools and arts organizations to improve arts education in our communities.
DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER AS NATIONAL CHILDHOOD OBESITY AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, during the past four decades, obesity rates have soared among all age groups, increasing more than fourfold among children ages 6 to 11; and

WHEREAS, 31.8 percent or 23,000,000 children and teenagers ages 2 to 19 are obese or overweight, a statistic that health and medical experts consider an epidemic; and

WHEREAS, significant disparities exist among the obesity rates of children based on race and poverty; and

WHEREAS, the financial implications of childhood obesity pose a tremendous financial threat to our economy and health care system, carrying up to $14,000,000,000 per year in direct health care cost, with people in the United States spending about 9 percent of their total medical costs on obesity-related illnesses; and

WHEREAS, obese young people have an 80 percent chance of being obese adults and are more likely than children of normal weight to become overweight or obese adults, and therefore more at risk for associated adult health problems, including heart disease, type 2 diabetes, sleep apnea, stroke, several types of cancer, and osteoarthritis; and

WHEREAS, in part due to the childhood obesity epidemic, 1 in 3 children (and nearly 1 in 2 minority children) born in the year 2000 will develop type 2 diabetes at some point in their lifetime if current trends continue; and

WHEREAS, some consequences of childhood and adolescent obesity are psychosocial and obese children and adolescents are targets of early and systematic social discrimination, leading to low self-esteem which, in turn, can hinder academic and social functioning and persist into adulthood; and

WHEREAS, participating in physical activity is important for children and teens as it may have beneficial effects not only on body weight, but also on blood pressure and bone strength; and

WHEREAS, proper nutrition is important for children before birth and through their life-span as nutrition has beneficial effects for health and body weight, and is key in the prevention of various chronic diseases; and

WHEREAS, childhood obesity is preventable yet does not appear to be declining; and

WHEREAS, public, community-based, and private sector organizations and individuals throughout the United States, including First Lady Michelle Obama, are working to decrease childhood obesity rates for people in the United States of all races through a range of efforts, including educational presentations, media campaigns, websites, policies, healthier food options, and greater opportunities for physical activity; and
WHEREAS, Mayors across this nation have championed cause of childhood obesity prevention by raising awareness and implementing local programs and policies to address the issue of childhood obesity; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the United States Conference of Mayors supports the designation of National Childhood Obesity Awareness Month to raise public awareness and mobilize the country to address childhood obesity; recognizes the importance of preventing childhood obesity and decreasing its prevalence in the United States; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the United States Conference of Mayors calls on Congress and the Administration to designate September 2010 and every September henceforth, National Childhood Obesity Awareness Month.
OPPOSING EFFORTS TO LIMIT ONLINE TRAVEL COMPANIES’ OBLIGATIONS TO COLLECT AND REMIT LOCAL HOTEL OCCUPANCY TAXES

WHEREAS, online travel companies (OTCs) such as Expedia, Priceline, Travelocity, Orbitz and Hotels.com are collecting state and local hotel occupancy taxes from consumers but only remitting a fraction of such taxes to state and local governments; and

WHEREAS, many hotels contract with OTCs in order to increase the occupancy of their hotel rooms, and provide OTCs a discounted rate for each room they book online; and

WHEREAS, OTCs charge consumers the full retail room rate when booking a room online and collect state and local hotel occupancy taxes based on the full retail room rate, and they typically charge consumers a processing fee; and

WHEREAS, OTCs collect taxes based on the full retail rate that the consumer pays for the room, but they only submit to state and local governments hotel occupancy taxes based on the discounted rate of the room and pocket the difference; and

WHEREAS, to illustrate this problem, assume that an OTC contracts with a hotel to offer rooms to consumers at a rate of $200.00 per day plus appropriate taxes and fees; and assume that the hotel agrees to provide the OTC a 20 percent discount for each room that it books online; this would mean that the OTC will charge consumers $200.00 for the room and if a local government has a 5 percent hotel occupancy tax, the OTC will collect $10.00 for a total of $210.00 per day; and after collecting the money from consumers, the OTC submits $160 ($200.00 minus the 20% discount) to the hotel, send $8.00 (5% of the discounted rate, $160.00) to the local government instead of the $10.00 that is actually due, and pockets $2.00, claiming it as a processing fee; and

WHEREAS, the minimum annual revenue loss that state and local governments are estimated to realize from OTCs will exceed $1 billion and increase to $8.5 billion if hotels, in order to avoid being left in a competitively disadvantaged position, adopt the OTCs’ business model of booking rooms online and pocketing a portion of local revenues; and

WHEREAS, many local governments have filed lawsuits and initiated other collection actions against OTCs to compel them to submit taxes to local governments’ based on the full retail room rate charged to the consumer, and more than 40 lawsuits are pending nationwide along with an unknown number of administrative collection efforts; and

WHEREAS, OTCs are seeking federal legislation that would limit state and local governments ability to collect taxes from OTCs by not only exempting OTCs from remitting taxes on the full retail price of the room but may also exempt the payment of any hotel occupancy tax on rooms booked by OTCs;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to oppose any legislation that would grant OTCs a tax exemption that terminates existing obligations, or bars future obligations to pay hotel taxes to state and local governments, or otherwise restrict legal actions filed by them.
SUPPORTING THE PROTECTION OF JOBS AND BUSINESSES THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES THREATENED BY THE GLOBAL PROBLEM OF ONLINE THEFT

WHEREAS, the motion pictures, television programs, and sound recordings created by the US entertainment industry are both an economic driver for the US economy and a cultural touchstone of our American heritage;

WHEREAS, in 2008 the motion picture and television industry was responsible for supporting 2.4 million jobs, over $140 billion in total wages and, $13.6 billion in audiovisual exports, making it one of the few American industries that consistently generates a positive balance of trade, in virtually every country in which it does business;

WHEREAS, the motion picture and television industry generated $15.7 billion in public revenues in 2008 and is comprised of 95,000 businesses located in every state in the country;

WHEREAS, film and television production takes place in all 50 states, creating jobs, fostering the building of a local infrastructure and studio facilities in a growing number of cities, supporting local businesses and serving as an economic engine that contributes $10 billion in state and local government revenues from income and sales and use taxes.

WHEREAS, American films and TV programs play a unique and critical role in our society as sources of both entertainment and information and are a major cultural and artistic force around the world;

WHEREAS, the motion picture and television industry derives the largest share of its revenue from the sale of its works on multiple platforms after their initial release, with roughly 70% of a motion picture’s revenues coming after theatrical release and more than 50% of scripted television production revenues generated after the first run;

WHEREAS, the digital age which brings great promise and potential, also makes possible online theft of an entire movie or television production instantaneously, from anywhere in the world, accessible to anyone who has an Internet connection, thus threatening the secondary markets and revenue sources that make it possible for new films and television programs to be made;

WHEREAS, digital theft has become an illegal money-making business, increasingly connected to organized crime, costing the US economy $20.5 billion a year in total output and more than 141,030 jobs, depriving state and local governments of $837 million in tax revenue, and making consumers vulnerable to identity theft and other crimes, and, if permitted to grow unabated, will inevitably lead to less films and television productions being made in cities across the United States with a direct impact on the local revenue they generate;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the members of the US Conference of Mayors support the efforts of the entertainment industry to combat, through a range of means, public and private, the online theft of motion pictures, television programs, sound recordings, and other intellectual property;
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the US Conference of Mayors commit to adopt and implement policies, procedures and ordinances that incorporate an Acceptable Use Policy on all city-owned computer networks, ensure the purchase of hardware and software that incorporates the latest content protection and anti-theft components, block illegal streaming and Peer-to-Peer applications and access to pirate sites from city-owned computers and inform city employees that illegal theft of intellectual property is not permitted.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the US Conference of Mayors call upon both the Obama Administration and Congress to develop workable solutions that, by protecting audiovisual works, protects the local jobs and revenues generated by film and television production in cities across America.
CREATING JOBS THROUGH INCREASED TRAVEL TO THE U.S.

WHEREAS, travel and tourism is a powerful economic generator in all 50 states and the District of Columbia, accounting for $704 billion in expenditures, $113 billion in local, state and federal taxes and 7.4 million jobs in 2009; and

WHEREAS, across our nation, no less than one in every nine non-farm jobs is created directly or indirectly by travel and tourism; and

WHEREAS, travel is America's leading service sector export, generating $121.2 billion in 2009 from international travelers (including international passenger fares); and

WHEREAS, travel and tourism creates one of the nation's only balance of trade surpluses, valued at $23.2 billion in 2009; and

WHEREAS, the world travel market is expanding, but the U.S.’s share has declined 34 percent over the past 17 years; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. welcomed 2.4 million fewer overseas visitors in 2009 then in 2000; and

WHEREAS, visitors from overseas are walking stimulus packages, each spending an average of over $4000 per visit; and

WHEREAS, the failure to simply keep pace with the growth in international long-haul travel since 2000 has cost the U.S. economy an estimated $509 billion in total spending and $32 billion in direct tax receipts; and

WHEREAS, in 2008 and 2009 alone, a total of 400,000 U.S. travel industry jobs were lost.

WHEREAS, all major industrialized nations except the United States have national travel promotion programs and spend significant funds to promote their destinations overseas, and, in turn, see substantial returns on their investments; and

WHEREAS, the Travel Promotion Act was enacted into law by President Obama on March 4 2010, after passing Congress with overwhelming bipartisan support; and

WHEREAS, the Travel Promotion Act will create a public-private partnership to educate travelers about U.S. travel policies and promote the United States as a destination of choice; and

WHEREAS, the Travel Promotion Act will benefit every state, create jobs, enhance national security, contribute to a favorable balance of trade for the U.S. economy, and improve our national image around the world; and

WHEREAS, the facilitation of secure, yet efficient, travel across American borders must be a priority of the federal government; and
WHEREAS, educating international travelers about changes in U.S. travel policies will help dispel negative perceptions about the entry process and provide a more welcoming experience for visitors; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) must institute a travel promotion fee to help fund the new travel promotion programs.

WHEREAS, in large foreign countries, lack of access to U.S. Consular Offices creates a significant deterrent to travel for millions of potential visitors to America; and

WHEREAS, The cost, planning, uncertainty and delay associated with traveling hundreds if not thousands of miles for an in-person interview at a U.S. Consulate keeps many travelers from even attempting to apply for a U.S. visa; and

WHEREAS, increasing the number of countries permitted to join the Visa Waiver Program will result in the increase of international visitors to the U.S. and allow communities across America to sell more of their goods and services to these visitors and which will ultimately create new American jobs.

WHEREAS, the Visa Waiver Program (VWP) permits visitors from specified allied nations to travel to the United States for short durations without the expense and delay of obtaining a tourist visa; and

WHEREAS, overseas visitors from VWP countries are the largest source – comprising 65 percent – of inbound overseas travel to the U.S.;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the United States Conference of Mayors calls upon the U.S. Congress to work with DHS and the Department of Commerce to ensure that funding is available for the Corporation for Travel Promotion in order to successfully implement the first ever national U.S. marketing effort.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges the federal government to improve visa and entry policies and procedures - including but not limited to the strengthening and expansion of the Visa Waiver Program, the reduction of visa interview wait times, the use of advanced technology to streamline visa interviews and the entry process, and improved customer service at air, land and sea ports of entry - to create a balance between increased security and travel facilitation.
SUPPORT MEETINGS, EVENTS AND INCENTIVE TRAVEL TO PROTECT LOCAL ECONOMIES

WHEREAS, business-related travel - including travel for meetings, events and performance incentives - is a vital part of our economy and essential to sustaining well-paying American jobs, the health of large and small businesses and the solvency of public services supported by federal, state and local tax-revenue; and

WHEREAS, business travel creates over 2 million jobs, injects more than $240 billion into the national economy annually and generates $39 billion in federal, state and local tax revenue; and

WHEREAS, travel for meetings and events creates 1 million jobs in local communities - from big cities to small towns - across the United States; and

WHEREAS, many of these jobs support working families in the hospitality and food service industries; and

WHEREAS, each meeting and event traveler spends an average of $1,000 per trip; and

WHEREAS, meetings and events travel generates $27 billion in wages for hardworking Americans that are critical to local economies across the United States, and can play a critical role in our nation's economic recovery; and

WHEREAS, meetings and events provide $16 billion in tax revenue at the federal, state and local level that finance essential services such as schools, police and fire departments; and

WHEREAS, meetings and events contribute $101 billion in spending to the U.S. economy; and

WHEREAS, meetings and events are responsible for nearly 15 percent of all travel in the United States; and

WHEREAS, a 10 percent increase in business travel spending will increase multi-factor productivity, and therefore U.S. GDP, by between 1.5 and 2.8 percent; and

WHEREAS, an analysis conducted by the U.S. Travel Association and Oxford Economics indicates that an increase in business travel spending of $1 million will increase government worker productivity and therefore output by between $4.6 million and $6.3 million; and

WHEREAS, business travel, particularly meetings and events, are essential for companies and local businesses to strengthen business relationships, align and educate employees and customers, and reward business performance; and

WHEREAS, for every dollar invested in business travel companies realize $12.50 in incremental revenue and between $10 and $14.99 in sales returns; and

WHEREAS, business travelers identified internal company travel as key to professional development, job performance, and morale; and
WHEREAS, without the jobs generated by meetings, events and incentive travel, the current unemployment rate would increase and cost the average American household over $100 in annual taxes; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the United States Conference of Mayors urges federal officials to support and create policies that spur and business travel, meetings, conferences and incentive travel programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that mayors across the United States support travel for meetings and events as a means for improving company and small business performance, boosting their local economies, and saving American jobs.

Projected Cost: Unknown
RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL TRAVEL AND TOURISM WEEK

WHEREAS, domestic and international travel is a $704 billion industry producing $113 billion in federal, state and local tax revenues;

WHEREAS, the travel industry is the fifth largest employer in the United States and among the top 10 industries in 48 states and the District of Columbia when measured by employment, supporting 10.1 million American workers;

WHEREAS, business and leisure travel are vital to the United States, enhancing our economic prosperity, health care, education, cultural understanding and public diplomacy;

WHEREAS, international travel to the United States is a critical tool for enhancing America’s image abroad and has significantly benefited the nation’s balance of trade for 20 years;

WHEREAS, the U.S. Congress passed and the President signed into law the Travel Promotion Act creating a new, nationally coordinated communications and promotion program to attract millions of new international visitors and create thousands of new U.S. jobs. The Travel Promotion Act will help reverse a decade of decline in overseas travel to the U.S. that could have contributed 68 million more arrivals, $509 billion in total spending and 441,000 jobs had the United States kept pace with global travel trends over the past decade;

WHEREAS, meetings, events and incentive travel are core business functions that help companies strengthen business performance – averaging a return on investment of $12.50 in incremental revenue and $3.80 in profits for every dollar spent on corporate travel – align and educate employees and customers, and reward business accomplishments;

WHEREAS, travel can serve as a catalyst to help stimulate the national economy;

WHEREAS, the Congress designated the first National Tourism Week in 1984 and encouraged celebrations in all 50 States and the Territories. In 2010, 40 destinations nationwide united for “Travel Rally Day” in support of the benefits created by travel and tourism; and

WHEREAS, National Tourism Week has been observed and celebrated each May since;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the United States Conference of Mayors recognize the week beginning on the second Saturday in May of each year as “National Travel and Tourism Week;” and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that mayors from across the country are invited to issue proclamations encouraging the people of the United States to observe such week with appropriate ceremonies and activities, and to raise awareness of the value of travel to the welfare of the nation.
TRANSPORTATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

INVESTING IN AMERICA’S EMERGING HIGH SPEED RAIL NETWORK

WHEREAS, the President of the United States, Barack Obama, proposes a bold vision to help address the Nation’s Transportation challenges by investing in an efficient, high-speed passenger rail network; and

WHEREAS, the next federal authorization of the surface transportation law presents an opportunity to realize the transportation efficiencies, environmental advantages, and economic development and land use opportunities that high-speed rail offer to cities and their metropolitan areas; and

WHEREAS, despite recognition that high-speed rail can significantly reduce congestion on highways and the air, decrease our dependence on foreign oil, and reduce greenhouse emissions, the United States offers no high-speed passenger rail service unlike other major industrialized nations; and

WHEREAS, the discrepancy in federal investment between highways, aviation, and intercity passenger rail is staggering with nearly $1.3 trillion for highways, $473 billion in aviation, and only $53 billion for passenger rail; and

WHEREAS, planning, development, and maintenance of a nationwide high-speed system will require significant investment; and

WHEREAS, transportation contributes more than two-thirds of our nation’s oil consumption and nearly a third of our carbon dioxide emissions; and

WHEREAS, according to an estimate developed by the National Surface Transportation Policy and Revenue Study Commission, the total capital cost estimate of re-establishing the national intercity passenger rail network by 2050 is approximately $357.2 billion or $8.1 billion annually; and

WHEREAS, the effort to establish high speed rail corridors in the United States will create millions of jobs around our nation; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States must rebuild our transportation infrastructure to make our systems more energy efficient, less reliant on foreign oil, and more environmentally sensitive and protective; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that that going forward, transportation federal transportation investments must address energy and climate concerns, through needed shifts and reforms in federal policies and programs that emphasize sustainable transportation investments; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors is calling on Congress and the Obama Administration to include in the next federal surface transportation
authorization a well funded and dedicated revenue source for planning, development, and maintenance of high-speed rail corridors.
WHEREAS, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act contained $1.5 billion for competitive discretionary transportation grants to state and local governments, a provision originally proposed by Senator Patty Murray of Washington at $5.0 billion; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), under the leadership of Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood, implemented this program as the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grants program; and

WHEREAS, TIGER grants can provide much needed funding to high-priority projects which cannot be derived from existing federal or non-federal resources and can measurably advance these projects; and

WHEREAS, for the Recovery Act TIGER funding DOT received 1,400 DOT approved 51 TIGER projects, with an average grant award of $30M applications totaling $60 billion in projects requests; and

WHEREAS, DOT approved 51 TIGER projects, with an average grant award of $30M; and

WHEREAS, DOT is now conducting a TIGER II grant round, based on $600 million in FY10 DOT appropriations, with minimum grant applications reduced from $20 million to $10 million,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors thanks Senator Patty Murray for her leadership in promoting this new source of flexible, discretionary competitive funding to help address important transportation needs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors thanks DOT Secretary Ray LaHood and his team for development and implementation of the TIGER program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges continuation of the TIGER grant program beyond FY10; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges that DOT seek a wider distribution of TIGER grants among the nation’s cities, focusing on worthy projects which can be significantly advanced with strategic federal investment, with the goal of TIGER II and any subsequent TIGER rounds benefitting an overall larger number of grantees.
IMPROVED TRANSIT FUNDING

WHEREAS, major surface transportation investment programs confer significant benefits on cities, including: building the infrastructure necessary to support economic growth and goods movement; creating high quality jobs designing, building, operating, and maintaining the infrastructure; and improving the sustainability and livability of our cities through improved mobility and reduced mobile source emissions; and

WHEREAS, the federal government can leverage its limited resources further if local jurisdictions invest in themselves and increase the amount of matching funds available for transportation projects; and

WHEREAS, local jurisdictions have approved increased sales tax measures to generate funding for regional transportation programs, demonstrating their financial commitment to improved regional transportation systems and reducing the federal share typically needed for federally assisted transportation projects; and

WHEREAS, the federal and state governments have previously partnered with localities to leverage local tax revenues through state infrastructure banks, TIFIA loan financing, and tax enhancements under such programs as Build America Bonds; and

WHEREAS, since 1997, Congress has enacted many separate programs authorizing state and local governments to issue tax-preferred debt at or near zero percent for purposes such as public education, disaster recovery, clean renewable energy, forestry conservation and energy conservation and the federal interest subsidies are designed to provide federal buy-downs of 70 to 100 percent of borrowers’ interest expense; and

WHEREAS, transportation infrastructure is equally, if not more so, important to the economic future of our cities, states, and country; and

WHEREAS, major transportation projects should receive similar treatment given the demand for such projects at a time when early construction of these projects can be done at the lowest possible cost and have the most profound impact on creating sustainable jobs; and

WHEREAS, TIFIA provides critical, flexible funding for major transit projects but cannot obligate funds and lock in interest rates until each project is ready-to-go thereby preventing transit agencies from fully taking advantage of market conditions; and

WHEREAS, reauthorization of SAFETEA-LU offers an opportunity to expand the scope of the TIFIA program, allowing USDOT to make an upfront credit commitment for projects that satisfy national infrastructure goals,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urge Congress to expand existing and/or establish new federal tax preferred bond programs with very high subsidies that would allow state and local governments to issue tax-preferred debt at or near zero percent interest for transportation projects that meet national criteria, such as reduction of greenhouse gas, and already have significant non-federal sources committed; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to modify the TIFIA loan program to enable USDOT to make an upfront credit commitment to a project sponsor at an earlier stage of development for projects that already have the majority of non-federal funding committed and that would reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
PROMOTING SUSTAINABILITY AND LOCAL ECONOMIES THROUGH PUBLIC TRANSPORT

WHEREAS, experience over the past forty years has brought focus to sustaining the environment through programs and practices that balance the economic, social, and environmental needs of a community; and

WHEREAS, public transit is widely recognized as integral to preserving the environment because it supports the efficient movement of employees, people, and visitors throughout a local economy; and

WHEREAS, public transit can help reduce air pollution, particulate matter and greenhouse gases; and

WHEREAS, the leverage effect of public transportation reduces the nation’s carbon emissions by 37 million metric tons annually – equivalent to the electricity used by 4.9 million households; and

WHEREAS, the business of providing public transit includes building capital projects, operating large scale and spatially dispersed facilities, energy consumption, and materials use; and

WHEREAS, mitigation of the negative impacts of service delivery and infrastructure maintenance/development can serve as a catalyst for improvements in sustainable design and technological improvements that shall further the positive impacts of public transit; and

WHEREAS, transit oriented development, the promotion of efficient land use and public transit ridership help achieve these goals,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors affirms its commitment to further develop and implement meaningful and proactive sustainability initiatives in the area of public transit. In affirming such sustainability initiatives, this affirmation encourages municipalities to:

- Promote public transportation as a viable transportation option to its citizens;
- Expand efforts to enhance sustainable design, increase recycling, conserve resources
- Seek and cultivate partnerships and public input that aid municipalities in creating partners in public transit; and
- Seek to adequately fund robust public transit systems; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors shall present these recommendations to the Administration and Congress and work with them to develop and enact an actionable plan embodying these recommendations.
STREETCAR RENAISSANCE AND LEADERSHIP

WHEREAS, streetcars, trolley’s and bus rapid transit (BRT) systems are enjoying a remarkable renaissance in American cities, with dozens of them in various stages of planning and implementation; and; and

WHEREAS, SAFETEA-LU in 2005 created the Small Starts program so that federal resources for these projects could be deployed in a flexible and efficient manner; and

WHEREAS, one of the key characteristics of projects such as these are the positive contributions they make to neighborhood, community and economic development, in addition to the transit service they provide, factors which were underscored in the Small Starts provisions of SAFETE-LU; and

WHEREAS, from 2005 to 2008 the U.S. Department of Transportation chose to minimize the community and economic development benefits of streetcar, trolley and BRT projects, thereby inhibiting their access to Small Starts funding; and

WHEREAS, federal Small Starts program regulations and guidance have been revised under the leadership of Peter Rogoff, the Federal Transit Administrator (FTA) to incorporate in to them the appreciation of community and economic development benefits as envisioned by SAFETEA-LU; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Transportation, under the leadership of Secretary Ray LaHood and FTA Administrator Rogoff has solicited new funding requests for streetcar, trolley and BRT projects from localities, creatively using existing funding available,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of strongly supports the Small Starts program and urges its continued funding and enhancement in the future via both annual appropriations and a future surface transportation reauthorization measure; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors congratulates Secretary LaHood and Administrator Rogoff for embracing the streetcar, trolley and BRT efforts of the nation’s cities and thanks them for the vital regulatory and administrative improvements which have been made to the program and the funding which has been provided for it.
CALLING ON THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION TO CREATE AN OFFICE DEDICATED TO THE PROMULGATION OF SUSTAINABILITY PRINCIPLES PRACTICES AND POLICIES

WHEREAS, ‘Sustainable Development’ has been defined by the United Nations World Commission on Environment & Development as “meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs;” and

WHEREAS, sustainable practices have been implemented within State Governments since 1997 when New Jersey was the first state to create a state-wide “Office of Sustainable Development;” and

WHEREAS, states such as Maryland (Office of Sustainability), New York (Interagency Committee on Sustainability and Green Procurement), Massachusetts (Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs), Colorado (Office of Environmental Integration & Sustainability), and Washington (Interagency Sustainability Committee) have created state-wide offices dedicated to the implementation of sustainable practices across several regulatory regimes with quantifiable success; and

WHEREAS, seventy cities across the country have also taken steps to appoint Sustainability Directors or create offices with a mandate of promoting the principles of sustainability within their cities; and

WHEREAS, recent economic, political, and cultural realities have prompted many governments, companies and individuals to assess and reconsider their plans for long-term sustainability; and

WHEREAS, the seriousness of climate change threats has never been more evident, as demand for natural resources continues to escalate, and hopes for reigniting economic growth rest on investments in the emerging green economy; and

WHEREAS, the sustainability practices of some cities are partly financed by funding secured from the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant adding to the future importance of that account remaining whole in out-laying appropriation cycles

WHEREAS, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act included thirteen accounts dedicated to funding sustainable economic development initiatives across the nation which accounted for nearly 6 percent of the Act’s total spending, or $43.53 billion; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Congress has appropriated the funding of a sustainable development grant program called the “Sustainable Communities Initiative” which includes two competitive grant programs, one for planning and one for implementation of a sustainability plan at the local government level; and

WHEREAS, although the Administration has established the “Office for Urban Affairs” and various agencies have constructed formal sustainable development organization components within their bureaucratic structures, there remains no unified effort within the administration to promote the many and fragmented initiatives to advance the ‘green’ economy; and
WHEREAS, on October 5, 2009, President Obama issued an Executive Order entitled “Federal Leadership in Environmental, Energy, and Economic Performance,” that sets sustainability goals for Federal agencies and focuses on making improvements in their environmental, energy and economic performance. This effort is being coordinated by the Office of the Federal Environmental Executive; however; and

WHEREAS, this resolution seeks to launch an effort to translate the work being done at the Federal level into a plan for bringing these best practices to the local level,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors recommends and endorses the creation of an office within the Administration, whose primary mandate is to encourage, promote, and further principles and practices of sustainability across all sectors of the communities outside the Federal Government;

BE IT RESOLVED that any apparatus charged with advocating sustainable development may be an existing entity within an agency whose mandate need only be altered to make sustainable development promotion in our communities its main priority.
HUD, DOT AND EPA PARTNERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, U.S. Department of Transportation, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency have joined together to form the Partnership for Sustainable Communities; and

WHEREAS, this partnership represents an unprecedented agreement to coordinate federal housing, transportation, and environmental investments; protect public health and the environment; promote equitable development; and help address the challenges of climate change; and

WHEREAS, as a key element of the partnership the three agencies are working together to coordinate federal policies, programs, and resources to help local governments build more sustainable communities and remove policy or other barriers that prevent sustainability; and

WHEREAS, this partnership is based on six Livability Principles including:
  • Provide more transportation choices;
  • Promote equitable, affordable housing;
  • Increase economic competitiveness;
  • Support existing communities;
  • Leverage federal investment;
  • Value communities and neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, this partnership has already led to important programmatic initiatives such as the HUD Sustainable Communities Planning Grant Program, the DOT Urban Circulator and Bus and Bus Facility Program and the EPA Waters Initiative; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S Conference of Mayors congratulates HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan, DOT Secretary Ray LaHood and EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson for their leadership in creating the Partnership for Sustainable Communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors will continue to work with these three agencies to enhance and promote the Partnership programs and principles.
SUPPORT FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN CITIES

WHEREAS, over half of today's global population lives in an urban setting - a number expected to increase to over 70% by 2050; and

WHEREAS, this rapid urbanization has placed severe stress on the environment and human health through increased waste, pollution and greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, cities sit at the intersection of law, policy, economic development, land use decisions, and the public interest and can be a guide to the federal government and other entities of how to address these challenges and encourage sustainable development; and

WHEREAS, many cities are already at the forefront of developing and implementing cutting-edge strategies to inspire a bottom-up approach to a low-carbon future through the adoption of climate action plans, the implementation of green building codes and standards, the revision of an existing municipal plan, or the use of policies based on LEED for Neighborhood Development; and

WHEREAS, cities and other local governments will soon be able to rate how sustainable they are in terms of economic, social, and environmental sustainability with the STAR Community Index and be able to use the Index as a planning tool to ensure that they continue to move towards being a sustainable community; and

WHEREAS, the federal government has shown increased support for sustainable communities through the Sustainable Communities Partnership, a collaboration between the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Department of Transportation, and the Environmental Protection Agency,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors acting on behalf of its constituents to call on the Congress of the United States to adopt the Livable Communities Act, the Enhancing Livability for All Americans Act, or similar legislation and support full funding for the Sustainable Communities Partnership in the President's
AMERICA’S CLEAN, DOMESTIC, AND AFFORDABLE URBAN TRANSPORTATION SOLUTION

WHEREAS, according to the Energy Information Administration (EIA), the transportation sector accounts for 69 percent of United States oil consumption; and

WHEREAS, natural gas is cleaner and cheaper than gasoline and diesel; and

WHEREAS, 98 percent of natural gas consumed in the United States is produced in North America; and

WHEREAS, recent shale discoveries and technology developments are increasing the American supply of natural gas, creating more than 100 years of supply abundance; and

WHEREAS, natural gas vehicles utilization is growing exponentially in Europe, South America, and in other global markets; and

WHEREAS, passage of current federal natural gas vehicle legislation would stimulate market expansion, economic growth, and support the buying and using natural gas vehicles over a short time period so that national economies of scale will develop. Furthermore, legislation should be focused on the high fuel-use and high pollution vehicle fleets such as trash trucks, transit buses, semi-trucks, school buses, urban delivery and distribution vehicles, and shuttle buses;

WHEREAS, the diversification of transportation fuel sources would help the United States meet rapidly growing domestic and global energy demands, reduce the United States’ dependency on oil imported from foreign countries, stabilize the cost and availability of energy in America, safeguard the economy and security of the United States, and facilitate the future growth of hydrogen vehicle transportation foundation by building out natural gas fueling corridors across our country,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors adopts as its policy on Climate Protection, Energy Independence and the Energy Block Grant called for by the mayors in the National Metro Agenda for America to urge the President and Congress to accelerate the following leadership policy initiatives:

- Enact the New Alternative to Give Americans Solutions (NAT GAS) Act (S. 1408, H.R. 1835) or relevant provisions within other federal legislation
- Enact The Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users Act’s (Pub. L. No. 109-59, § 11113) provision that provides a tax credit of 50-cent per gasoline-gallon-equivalent of CNG or liquid gallon of LNG for the sale of CNG and LNG for use as a motor vehicle fuel.
- Expand federally funded Research, Development, and Demonstration (RD&D) programs to expand product offerings of natural gas engines to meet a wider range of applications in the United States transportation sector
WHEREAS, the mandated conversion from analog television broadcasting to digital television broadcasting in 2009 resulted in certain 700 MHz spectrum becoming available for alternative uses, including public safety; and

WHEREAS, Congress allocated 10 MHz of spectrum to create a dedicated Public Safety band, assigned without cost to a national nonprofit public safety licensee for management; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) designated the 10 MHz of “D Block” spectrum immediately adjacent to the Public Safety Band for auction to a commercial provider, subject to a mandate to establish a public-private partnership with the public safety licensee in order to build a nationwide interoperable broadband public safety network meeting reliability and availability standards; and

WHEREAS, no bidder in the January 2008 auction of D Block met the FCC’s reserve price of $1.33 billion under those conditions; and

WHEREAS, the FCC’s new National Broadband Plan (March 2010) proposes instead auctioning the D Block to the highest bidder for commercial applications, requiring some interoperable technology standards and “priority” access for public safety; and

WHEREAS, the FCC timetable to conduct this auction is within the first six months of 2011; and

WHEREAS, the FCC acknowledges that public safety will need more than the currently dedicated 10 MHz in the future; and

WHEREAS, the D Block position contiguous with the current Public Safety band uniquely enables greater operational efficiencies and cost-effectiveness through reduced technical complexity, consolidation of multiple communications systems, and elimination of adjacent channel interference; and

WHEREAS, the D Block is ideal for public safety use because its unique propagation characteristics provide superior long-range coverage in mountainous terrain and in-building penetration, in contrast to the available 4.9 GHz public safety network; and

WHEREAS, wireless commercial networks lack hardening, redundancy, backup power capability, and reliability needed for mission-critical public safety functions; and

WHEREAS, wireless commercial networks cannot guarantee first responders access over other users or dynamically engage prioritization by level of incident; and

WHEREAS, the FCC-proposed alternative of “priority” and roaming requirements will still leave public safety to compete for access because commercial networks are not sized or engineered to handle traffic spikes arising from large-scale incidents and lack the technical capability to pre-empt other users already on the system; and
WHEREAS, the FCC auction plan and technical advantages of the D Block likely forces public safety into a sole-source vendor relationship with the commercial auction winner, rather than encouraging competition to serve the public safety sector; and

WHEREAS, providing the D Block asset to public safety control could better leverage competitive commercial provider participation in network build-out consistent with stringent reliability and availability specifications, at terms, conditions, and costs more favorable to public safety; and

WHEREAS, allocating the D Block to public safety would double the amount of spectrum dedicated to first responder communications while reducing the total new commercial broadband spectrum available by only 1.25 percent; and

WHEREAS, eight of the largest national public safety organizations have reached a consensus position that Congress should reallocate the D Block spectrum to public safety;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors opposes the FCC proposal in the National Broadband Plan to auction the D Block spectrum to a commercial provider; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors calls upon Congress to immediately pass legislation that prevents the FCC from undertaking an auction in 2011, and conditions further FCC action on formal Congressional approval of plans for the D Block and meeting public safety spectrum needs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors calls upon Congress to reallocate the D Block to public safety; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors endorses identification of alternative federal funding sources, such as potential for a user fee on wireless spectrum licensees that is dedicated to the deployment of an interoperable public safety network in the D Block, in order to ensure that all states and localities can afford costs associated with transition to a nationwide network.
UPGRADING THE 9-1-1 EMERGENCY SYSTEM TO NEXT GENERATION

WHEREAS, in the past 15 years, advancements in modern communications technology have created the need for a more advanced system to access emergency care; and

WHEREAS, the existing 9-1-1 system has been a success story for more than 30 years and has been stretched to its limit as technology advances; and

WHEREAS, new wireless and Internet Protocol (IP)-based communications devices are being developed at a rapid rate, offering such capabilities as text and video messaging; and

WHEREAS, the current 9-1-1 system was never intended to receive calls and data from these new and emerging technologies; and

WHEREAS, through such cumbersome adaptations, E9-1-1 is being asked to perform functions it was not designed to handle; and

WHEREAS, the nation’s 9-1-1 systems are in need of a significant overhaul,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urge the Administration and the Congress to implement a Next Generation 9-1-1 (NG9-1-1), which is a system comprised of Emergency Services IP networks, IP-based software services and applications, databases, and data management processes that are interconnected to Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) premise equipment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urge the Administration and the Congress to ensure that the system provides location-based routing to the appropriate emergency entity, uses additionally available data elements and business policies to augment PSAP routing, and delivers geodetic and/or civic location information and the call back number; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urge the Administration and the Congress to initiate a coordinated effort to ensure that the NG9-1-1 system supports the transfer of calls to other NG9-1-1-capable PSAPS or other authorized entities based on and including accumulated data; provides standardized interfaces for call and message services; processes all types of emergency calls, including non-voice (multimedia) messages; and acquires and integrates additional data useful to call routing and handling for appropriate emergency entities. Projected Cost: Unknown
WHEREAS, the surface transportation reauthorization policy framework has expired and the country is funding highways and transit under extensions of the current program through general funds similar to the way funding for the nation’s complementary and underdeveloped high speed and intercity passenger rail network has operated for decades; and

WHEREAS, the Administration and Congress will be formulating national surface transportation policy over the coming year but have not yet agreed on how to best address congested metropolitan highways, limited options for expanding airport capacity, rising fuel prices, and the need to further invest and grow high speed and intercity passenger rail corridors; and

WHEREAS, the United States of America has made a considerable financial commitment to expanding the nation’s high-speed and intercity passenger rail (HSIPR) network, appropriating $4 billion last year for both state corridor development efforts and Amtrak state of good repair investments in the FY10 Consolidated Appropriations Act; and

WHEREAS, the President and Vice-President announced in January 2010 an additional $8 billion in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) awards for 13 corridors in 31 states; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Railroad Administration received applications requesting seven times the available funds for the HSIPR ARRA grants; and

WHEREAS, developing this pipeline of national high-speed and intercity passenger rail projects will revitalize the domestic manufacturing industry and create additional American jobs building on the one million good-paying, middle-class creating American jobs that can never be off-shored already supported by the rail industry; and

WHEREAS, ridership on Amtrak grew every year from 2000 through 2008, and are on track in 2010 for its best ridership year ever, further demonstrating the increased demand for intercity passenger rail services; and

WHEREAS, Amtrak annually provides intercity passenger rail travel to over 25 million Americans residing in 46 states; and

WHEREAS, for many rural Americans, Amtrak represents the only major intercity transportation link to the rest of the country; and

WHEREAS, passenger rail provides a more fuel-efficient transportation system thereby providing cleaner transportation alternatives and energy security; and
WHEREAS, when combined with all modes of transportation, passenger railroads emit only 0.2 percent of the travel industry’s total greenhouse gases and one freight train can move a ton of freight 457 miles on one gallon of fuel,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the The United States Conference of Mayors urges the Administration and Congress to boldly move towards a revolutionary surface transportation reauthorization including sustainable funding for high speed and intercity passenger rail, and Amtrak, as the backbone of our current high speed and intercity passenger rail system, in the surface transportation reauthorization; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the Administration and Congress to enact tax incentives and pursue other measures to stimulate increased private sector participation to improve crossings, rail stations, and rail infrastructure; acquire rolling stock; offer commuter benefits; and spur transit-oriented development to create livable communities in support of intercity passenger rail; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors calls on the Administration and Congress to dedicate a portion of any proceeds from the federal issuance of bonds to fund transportation spending, or any other new transportation funding source including climate change or energy legislation, to the development of a high speed and intercity passenger rail network that includes Amtrak; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urges Congress to include the Northeast Corridor as one of the federally designated high-speed rail corridors thereby making it clearly eligible for federal high-speed rail corridor-wide funding; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors supports an FY11 federal appropriation for Amtrak of $2.5 billion; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors recognizes the pivotal role that a robust high speed and intercity passenger rail system does and can provide for better mobility for persons of all abilities.
MISCELLANEOUS

2010 GULF OIL SPILL

WHEREAS, on April 20, 2010 eleven crewmen died as a result of the explosion of the oil rig, Deepwater Horizon, in the Gulf of Mexico; and

WHEREAS, this oil spill threatens unprecedented harm to the environment, ecology and economy of the Gulf region and beyond, especially to many cities and local economies in many states, including Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, the potential for significant dislocation of these economies is mounting, affecting vital industries including tourism, commercial and charter fishing, oystering and related coastal activities as well as generations of families working in these industries who will require unique and targeted support and assistance to minimize the dislocation caused by this catastrophe; and

WHEREAS, a variety of environmental risks are associated with offshore oil exploration and production, including such things as discharges or spills of toxic materials whether intentional or accidental, interference with marine life, damage to coastal habitats owing to construction and operations of producing infrastructure, and disruptions to the economic base of coastal communities; and

WHEREAS, cities and other local government officials routinely work with state and federal government agencies and their officials to share resources and coordinate responses to disasters such as hurricanes, tornados and wildfires within their communities; and

WHEREAS, this oil spill poses substantial and unique challenges to all levels of governments, especially those cities and other local communities immediately affected, and requires a level of intergovernmental coordination that is unprecedented; and

WHEREAS, the responsible parties as well as the state and federal governments must act vigorously in ensuring that cities and their emergency response personnel are fully consulted and their complete and timely input is sought in executing response plans and other emergency measures,

WHEREAS, the Obama Administration has initiated outreach to mayors and other local elected officials following the onset of this disaster through, among other measures, a May 3 conference call with the President and mayors and other local officials from potentially affected areas along the Gulf Coast and through daily conference calls since May 4 with federal agency representatives and local officials from potentially affected areas,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U. S. Conference of Mayors calls on President Barack Obama to initiate emergency assessments by key federal department and agencies including the Departments of Commerce, Energy, Health and Human Services, Housing and Urban Development and Labor as well as the Environmental Protection Agency, Coast Guard, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Economic Development Administration, and
the Small Business Administration to provide timely initiatives, policies and actions to mitigate the devastation wrought by this release of pollution and advance the immediate rebuilding of impacted ecosystems and economies; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U. S. Conference of Mayors also urges the President to establish a special task force of senior federal officials from the aforementioned agencies, Mayors and other local elected officials from local areas that have been or are likely to be affected environmentally and/or economically by this disaster that provides timely and updated information on mitigation efforts and initiatives to limit the economic consequences of this release and develops strategies to minimize contamination and accelerate the environmental/economic recovery following containment of the spill; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges President Barack Obama to appoint a Gulf Oil Disaster commander to direct the actions of all of the federal agencies involved in mitigating and recovering from the Gulf Oil disaster to alleviate jurisdictional issues and assure a multi-faceted, coordinated, and timely response; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges the President to initiate relief measures, including an Infrastructure Bank to facilitate the rapid revival of affected local and regional economies and specialized worker retraining initiatives;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U. S. Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to ensure that lead Federal agencies are coordinating closely with cities and other local governments in all phases of this national response; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U. S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to provide additional resources for local cleanup efforts, economic losses and other financial assistance to local governments, ensuring that these resources are provided on a timely basis consistent with the schedule for reimbursing state governments for these purposes.
SPECIAL RESOLUTION IN HONOR OF MICK CORNETT MAYOR OF OKLAHOMA CITY HOST OF THE 78TH ANNUAL MEETING of THE UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF MAYORS JUNE 11-14, 2010

WHEREAS, with characteristic energy, excellence, and can-do spirit Mayor Mick Cornett has made sure that his city welcomed and took spectacular care of all participants at the 78th Annual Meeting of The United States Conference of Mayors, June 11-14, 2010; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Cornett has been at the forefront of the Oklahoma City renaissance, including the MAPS Program, under which every building in the Oklahoma City Public School District is being renovated or rebuilt; the grand arrival of the National Basketball Association—the Oklahoma City Thunder, making Oklahoma City a major league sports city; an economy that in the 2009 and 2010 recession years has consistently had the lowest unemployment rate in the nation; and his own personal achievement of losing 42 pounds and then leading a successful movement to change the culture of obesity in Oklahoma; and

WHEREAS, the thoughtful, meticulous planning of Mayor Cornett, his staff, and the Greater Oklahoma Chamber of Commerce has treated us to many ways of experiencing this vibrant city, including:

- The cuisine, music, and water taxi in Bricktown, the region’s premier entertainment district;
- A real “Oklahoma Hoe Down,” with live country music, barbecue, line dancing, trick ropers, horseshoe pitching, and the world-famous Express Clydesdales;
- The Oklahoma City Museum of Art, including the amazing exhibition of Hollywood fashion and costumes;
- The world-renowned alternative rock band “The Flaming Lips” teamed with the Oklahoma City Philharmonic at the Ford Center;
- A Broadway Review, including songs from “Oklahoma,” the most famous musical in the world; and
- The National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum.

WHEREAS, we thank Mayor Cornett, National Memorial Chairman John Richels, survivors Polly Nichols and Susan Winchester for the Memorial Service at the Oklahoma City National Memorial and Museum, honoring those who were killed, those who survived, and those changed forever by the April 19, 1995 bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building; and

WHEREAS, we will never forget learning how Oklahoma City and its people experienced and coped with this terrible tragedy; healed through resolve, love, and faith; and became a lasting symbol of resilience for the nation and world; and

WHEREAS, the experience of watering the Survivor Tree is a memory that will remain with each of us forever,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors expresses deepest gratitude to Mayor Mick Cornett, his dedicated and excellent staff, the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce, volunteers, sponsors of events, and everyone else who contributed to the resounding success of this conference; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors thanks our host Mayor Mick Cornett for the opportunity to experience so many facets of this wonderful city; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Mayor Cornett, that from now on, we now have a new take on the words to “Oklahoma.” To us, now, the words go like this:

“We know we belong to the land
And the land we belong to is grand!
And when we say
Yeeow! Ayipioeeay!
We're only sayin'
You're doin' fine, Oklahoma City!
Oklahoma City, O.K!!”
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