



The United States Conference of Mayors

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Key House Energy Panel Adopts New Partnership with Mayors on Energy Efficiency Projects

Washington, DC – The House Energy and Commerce Committee yesterday passed a broad energy bill that will for the first time establish a direct partnership between the federal government and cities, counties and states. The Committee-approved legislation includes the establishment of a new Energy Efficiency Block Grant Program at the U.S. Department of Energy.

“The nation’s mayors applaud the leadership of Chairman John Dingell and other members of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, for adopting legislation that will help cities reduce energy use and increase energy efficiency, helping their efforts on climate protection” said Conference President Trenton Mayor Douglas H. Palmer. “Congressman Albert Wynn’s leadership of this bi-partisan effort was absolutely critical to the Committee’s decision to incorporate this important initiative into its energy package.”

The legislation creates a new block grant program that will support community-based energy efficiency and conservation efforts. According to a new Conference survey released last week, mayors would expand energy initiatives to encourage individuals and businesses to change energy practices, “green” commercial, residential and public buildings, and promote renewable and other alternative energy sources.

“This is watershed legislation that affirms the critical role mayors play in our national effort to save energy and protect our environment,” said Tom Cochran, Conference Executive Director. “Any successful national plan to reduce energy usage must include a grassroots, community-led component.”

This week, mayors concluded The U.S. Conference of Mayors 75th Annual Meeting, where the topics of climate protection and energy efficiency dominated the five-day meeting. Several presidential hopefuls indicated their support for the Conference’s block grant initiative during remarks to the participants. Also, nearly 600 mayors from coast to coast have signed The U.S. Conference of Mayors’ Climate Protection Agreement where mayors commit to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 7 percent from 1990 levels by 2012.

Last week, the full Senate approved a broad energy package that also includes an energy and environmental block grant program.

For more information on all of the actions that mayors have taken to reduce energy dependency and increase climate protection in cities, please visit usmayors.org

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