



THE UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF MAYORS

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July 14, 2009

To: The Mayor

From: Tom Cochran, CEO and Executive Director

ACTION ALERT – PLEASE CONTACT YOUR SENATORS IMMEDIATELY AND URGE THEM TO INCLUDE EECBG IN THEIR CLIMATE CHANGE BILL

Your Senator, who serves on the Senate Environment and Public Works (EPW) Committee, is now working to craft its Climate Protection legislation. ***It is imperative that you call your Senator immediately to urge them to include dedicated funding for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) program in their bill.***

The Senate EPW committee is expected to use the recently-passed House climate change bill – the American Clean Energy and Security (ACES) Act (HR 2454) – as a “starting point.” The House bill does **NOT** provide direct funding for cities and other local governments, choosing instead to distribute all funds to the states. The Conference of Mayors is advocating to reserve a portion of the state funding to be distributed using the EECBG formula to ensure continued and sustained funding for local government efforts.

The EECBG program, as you know, was specifically designed to provide resources to assist city, county, and state governments to implement energy conservation and energy efficiency strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Please note that in the last Congress, the Senate EPW committee, under the leadership of the EPW Chair, Senator Barbara Boxer, did include a dedicated funding source for the EECBG program in its version of the climate change bill.

At our Annual Meeting in Providence, we adopted policy encouraging Congress to pass comprehensive climate change legislation that included the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant. As you know, many of the solutions that will result in real, tangible reductions in greenhouse gas emissions must be implemented at the local level where most of the nation’s economic activity and population reside.

Since the EECBG was not included in the House bill, it is absolutely critical that you contact our Senators now to ensure that EECBG is included in the Senate version. Below you will find the list of Senators on the EPW Committee along with some talking points attached to this email.

If you have any questions or if you need any follow up with Senate offices, please do not hesitate to contact my staff Judy Sheahan (202-861-6775) or Kevin McCarty (202-861-6728). Thank you for your assistance on this critical matter.

Members of the Senate EPW Committee

Barbara Boxer, CA, (Chair) – 202-224-3553
Max Baucus, MT – 202-224-2651
Thomas Carper, DE – 202-224-2441
Frank Lautenberg, NJ – 202-224-3224
Benjamin Cardin, MD – 202-224-4524
Bernard Sanders, VT – 202-224-5141
Amy Klobuchar, MN – 202-224-3244
Sheldon Whitehouse, RI – 202-224-2921
Tom Udall, NM – 202-224-6621
Jeff Merkley, OR – 202-224-3753
Kirsten Gillibrand, NY – 202-224-4451
Arlen Specter, PA – 202-224-4254
James Inhofe, OK (Rnk. Mem) – 202-224-4721
George Voinovich, OH – 202-224-3353
David Vitter, LA – 202-224-4623
John Barrasso, WY – 202-224-6441
Mike Crapo, ID – 202-224-6142
Christopher Bond, MO – 202-224-5721
Lamar Alexander, TN – 202-224-4944