



October 5, 2001

Dear Senator/Representative:

**RE: Economic Stimulus, Infrastructure Investment and Worker Assistance**

The tragic events of September 11 have sent a shock-wave through the American economy which threatens the tremendous gains made in the past decade. We now face the combined effects of air traffic reductions, challenged alternative transportation options such as rails and buses, tourism losses, business retrenchment, and fall in consumer confidence. Nowhere is this more evident than in America's cities.

America's cities have been the engines driving the overall national economy. In the year 2000, U.S. metro economies accounted for 85% of Gross Domestic Product; 84% of national employment; and 88% of total labor income. And, from 1992 to 1999, metro areas contributed over \$2 trillion to the growth in Gross Domestic Product, representing 89% of the national gain. Therefore, it is critical that our national efforts to stem the current recession and stimulate economic activity and growth be focused on investing in our metro economies and the people in our cities.

**Strategic Public Infrastructure Investment**

As you move forward with an economic stimulus bill, the nation's mayors urge you to provide significant resources for a package of rail, transit and urban highway infrastructure investment as being proposed by Senator Harry Reid of Nevada. Such a package would have the multiple benefits of both creating jobs and economic activity, and increasing national security through the creation of a more multi-modal national transportation system to the benefit of both consumers and the business community which rely so heavily on transportation.

**Worker Assistance**

In addition, we remain extremely concerned about the hundreds of thousands of workers who have been negatively impacted by September 11, and urge you to adopt a comprehensive package which includes benefit extensions, health care assistance, and significant increases in job training and placement programs.

Mayors are ready to assist you in any way possible as you move forward on the stimulus package. If you have any questions, please contact our Executive Director Tom Cochran at (202) 293-2354.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Morial".

Marc H. Morial  
Mayor of New Orleans  
President