

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED

at the
70TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF MAYORS
Madison, WI - June 14-18, 2002

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ARTS, PARKS, ENTERTAINMENT AND SPORTS

TRAVEL AND TOURISM

WHEREAS, the travel and tourism industry is an important part of national, state, and local economies and helps to foster the livability of America's cities; and

WHEREAS, in the last decade, travel and tourism has emerged as America's second largest services export and third largest retail sales industry; and

WHEREAS, the industry has generated a balance of trade surplus of \$17 billion and is a vital job-creation engine for our nation's economy; and

WHEREAS, in 2001, the travel and tourism industry generated 16 percent \$196 million-of total U.S. exports; and

WHEREAS, travel and tourism had a direct and indirect domestic economic impact of more than \$582 billion in 2000; and

WHEREAS, international visitors spent an estimated \$106.5 billion in the U.S. in 2000; and

WHEREAS, more than 18 million Americans are employed in travel and tourism-related jobs, with an annual payroll of \$159 billion; and

WHEREAS, the industry is the first, second or third largest industry in 28 states and the District of Columbia; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that in 2000, travel and tourism generated \$99.5 billion in tax revenues for federal, state, and local governments; and

WHEREAS, the tragic events of September 11 dramatically and adversely affected the interests of employers, and employees throughout the travel and tourism industry; and

WHEREAS, a more coordinated and enhanced federal effort needs to be undertaken to promote the travel and tourism industry,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors encourages the President to establish a Presidential Advisory Council on Travel and

Tourism to foster tourism policy development and coordination within the federal government, and to raise awareness of the economic impact of travel and tourism; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that funding be established for an International Destination Marketing Campaign to create a national identity for the U.S. as a premier travel destination and that those funds be allocated directly to local governments; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Conference of Mayors Travel and Tourism Task Force work with the Travel Business Roundtable to examine other actions that might be undertaken by federal, state and local governments to assist the travel and tourism industry.

FEDERAL FUNDING FOR THE ARTS, HUMANITIES AND MUSEUMS

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' and the National Endowment for the Humanities' thirty plus 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 and 4,000 local arts agencies in cities throughout the country; 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, federal funding serves as a catalyst to leverage additional dollars for cultural activity — the annual federal investment made to these three agencies increased last year (NEA @ \$115 million; NEH @ \$124.5 million; and OMS @ \$26.9 million) and has been used to leverage up to 10 times that amount from state and local governments, private foundations, corporations and individuals in communities across the nation to support the highest quality cultural programs in the world; 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 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 arts funding to cities, towns and states has helped stimulate the growth of 3,800 local arts agencies in America's cities and counties and \$800 million annually in local government funding to the arts and humanities; 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 geography and family income; and

WHEREAS, the NEA has undergone a major restructuring of its grants programs to more directly reach and help build communities across the nation; and

WHEREAS, the federal cultural agencies have received funding increases for the last two consecutive years in an effort to begin restoring the devastating 40 percent cuts made in 1995, but major increases are still needed to address the growing needs of our cultural organizations; and

WHEREAS, the President has proposed a small FY'03 increase of \$2 million for each of these agencies to cover primarily administrative overhead; and

WHEREAS, the delicate balance in shared responsibility and partnership for public funding of the arts and humanities at the federal, state and local government levels has been in serious jeopardy since local governments cannot make up for the current funding cuts in the federal government's share; and

WHEREAS, the United States Conference of Mayors has unanimously passed policy resolutions and issued official letters in the past on Arts Advocacy Day to the President and leaders of the U.S. Senate and House, signed by more than 200 of the nation's mayors, to increase federal funding for the arts and humanities,

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 fund these agencies for FY'03 at \$155 million each for the NEA and the NEH, and up to \$80 million for the OMS in order to fulfill the federal government's responsibility to help make the arts accessible to all Americans for the social, economic and cultural well-being of the American public, as well as to help sustain this nation's cultural infrastructure for public support of the arts and humanities at the federal, state and local levels.

ARTS EDUCATION THROUGH THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

WHEREAS, in 1994, Congress and the White House broke new ground with GOALS 2000 national education goals legislation by including in federal law recognition of the arts as a core subject within a substantive curriculum. This recognition has since opened the door for schools and community partners to access support for arts education through the various K-12 programs of the U.S. Department of Education (USED); and

WHEREAS, Congress passed and the President of the United States signed into law

this year the new Elementary and Secondary Education reauthorization act, *No Child Left Behind*, which formally carried forward recognition of the arts as a core academic subject, but places an extraordinary emphasis on student testing in reading, writing and math; and

WHEREAS, a child's education is not complete unless it includes the arts. A comprehensive strategy for a complete education includes high-quality, sequential instruction in the classroom, as well as participation and learning in community-based arts programs. Active participation and learning in the arts improve overall academic achievement, socialization, and preparation for college and the workforce; and

WHEREAS, historically, inner-city and rural children have not had the same opportunities as children living in wealthier suburban school districts to learn in, through and about the arts. Public schools have the responsibility for providing a complete education for all children. Students face challenges in knowing how to communicate in many ways, and schools must prepare them to meet the challenges; and

WHEREAS, the Arts Education Partnership recently released a new compendium of arts education research entitled, *Critical Links*, analyzing 62 rigorous studies and revealing the measurable links between learning in the arts and improved academic achievement, positive social development, and enhanced motivation towards learning; and

WHEREAS, arts education research findings in *Critical Links* suggest the following:

- **The arts help close the achievement gap.** The studies suggest that for young children, students from economically disadvantaged circumstances, and students needing remedial instruction, learning in the arts may be uniquely able to boost learning and academic achievement.
- **The arts improve the academic skills essential for reading and language development.** Certain forms of arts instruction enhance and complement basic reading instruction by associating letters, words, and phrases with sounds, sentences, and meanings. And, dramatic enactments by young children also are shown to produce more effective writing.
- **The arts build strong mathematical skills.** Studies have shown that certain music instruction that includes training in keyboard skills, develops spatial reasoning and spatial-temporal reasoning skills, which are fundamental to understanding and using mathematical ideas and concepts.
- **The arts advance the motivation to learn.** Motivation and the aspiration to pursue and sustain learning are essential to achievement in all areas of life. Learning in the arts nurtures these capacities, including active engagement, disciplined and sustained attention, persistence, and increases attendance and educational aspirations.

- **The arts promote positive social development.** Studies of student learning experiences in drama, music, dance and multi-arts activities show student growth in self-confidence, self-control, self-identity, conflict resolution, collaboration, empathy and social tolerance; and

WHEREAS, the arts also have a measurable impact on youth at risk in deterring delinquent behavior and truancy problems while increasing overall academic performance among those youth engaged in after-school and summer arts programs targeted towards delinquency prevention; and

WHEREAS, the President has proposed substantial funding for *No Child Left Behind* education reform with an emphasis on testing in reading, writing and math; however, zero funding has been proposed for the Arts in Education section of this bill. Last year, Congress appropriated \$30 million in grant programs for the Arts in Education section to help develop models of rigorous arts education programs in the schools, to support the ongoing arts education work of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and VSA arts, and to provide professional development of arts educators,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the United States Conference of Mayors urges Congress to appropriate \$36 million to the Arts in Education section, in the U.S. Department of Education's Fund for Improvement of Education, in the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Bill for fiscal year 2003. We further urge local school districts and administrators to maximize use of available federal education funds to deliver high quality arts instruction and to integrate the arts into other core subjects.

PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGN FOR ARTS EDUCATION

WHEREAS, Americans for the Arts, in partnership with the Advertising Council, launched the – Art. Ask for More. – national public awareness campaign in January of 2002 designed to motivate parents across the United States to get more involved in ensuring their children receive a comprehensive arts education; and

WHEREAS, Americans for the Arts has secured more than 315 local, state, and national partners, including The United States Conference of Mayors, to help promote the campaign in media markets across the country; and

WHEREAS, Americans for the Arts and The Advertising Council have secured media distribution relationships to date with CBS, NBC, ABC, FOX, BRAVO, VH1 as well as with The New York Times and many other media companies; and

WHEREAS, this multi-year public awareness campaign has developed advertising materials for television, radio, newspapers, magazines, internet, and billboards with the – Art. Ask for More. – message; and

WHEREAS, Art. Ask for More. PSA materials have been distributed to more than 1,300 television stations, 5,500 radio stations, 9,600 newspapers, and 1,900 magazines; and

WHEREAS, the goal of the multi-media campaign is to increase the public's awareness and action that participation in the arts is essential to the development of every child, and to spur the integration of the arts more completely into homes, schools and communities; and

WHEREAS, the United States Conference of Mayors unanimously passed a resolution in 2001 endorsing the development of a public awareness campaign to promote arts education,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the United States Conference of Mayors specifically endorses the – Art. Ask for More. – public awareness campaign and encourages its active partnership in the campaign. Be it further resolved that the United States Conference of Mayors urges the nation's local arts agencies to actively participate in the campaign at the local level, and also to motivate parents and other citizens to take action on children's behalf to ensure the return of a comprehensive arts education in all of our nation's public schools.

NATIONAL ARTS AND HUMANITIES MONTH

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 23,000 cultural organizations, the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the nation's 4,000 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 encouraged to participate again this year in this national celebration and public awareness campaign; and

WHEREAS, the month of October 2002 has been designated as National Arts and Humanities Month,

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.

URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY

WHEREAS, the vitality of communities is strongly dependent on the quality of the city's infrastructure. Parks, tree cover, streetscapes and other green open space are an integral part of urban green infrastructure planning; and

WHEREAS, tree cover and associated green infrastructure provide significant ecological, social and economic benefits, including: reducing air and water pollution, slowing storm water runoff, and helping conserving energy; and

WHEREAS, access to green open space and tree sheltered streets alleviates the mental fatigue of urban life, increases socialization in those areas and promotes a greater sense of community; and

WHEREAS, people are more prone to spend time outdoors in a pleasing tree shaded environment and increased pedestrian traffic results in more eyes on the street that tends to reduce violent behavior and crime; and

WHEREAS, properly planned and managed green infrastructure saves municipal governments millions of dollars in air and storm water management costs, helps cities meet federal regulatory requirements for air and water quality, and increases property values; and

WHEREAS, federal funding of the USDA Forest Service Urban & Community Forestry program provides critical financial support for forestry programs in many municipal forestry programs,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the United States Congress should provide for full funding of \$50 million for the Forest Service's Urban and Community Forestry Program in Fiscal Year 2003.

PHYSICAL FITNESS AND SPORTS

WHEREAS, daily physical activity, even at moderate intensity, reduces the risk of major health problems such as heart disease, hypertension, diabetes, some forms of cancer, osteoporosis, and obesity; and

WHEREAS, an active lifestyle promotes a higher quality of life, good mental health, enhances one's physical fitness and allows older individuals to extend independent living; and

WHEREAS, hundreds of thousands of our citizens suffer needlessly from major health problems or death because of unhealthy lifestyles; and

WHEREAS, 41 percent of women and 35 percent of men are entirely sedentary in their leisure hours; and

WHEREAS, an estimated 61 percent of U.S. adults were overweight or obese, and 13 percent of children and adolescents were overweight; and

WHEREAS, there are nearly twice as many overweight children and almost three times as many overweight adolescents as there were in 1980; and

WHEREAS, overweight and obesity and their associated health problems have substantial economic consequences for the U.S. health care system; and

WHEREAS, physical activity, fitness and sports participation along with healthy dietary behaviors reduce the risk of chronic diseases; and

WHEREAS, efforts to expand awareness and knowledge regarding the benefits of adopting and maintaining a healthy and fit lifestyle are less expensive than intervention with problems that have already occurred,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the U.S. Conference of Mayors, will work with the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports, to encourage individuals, professional societies, voluntary and faith-based organizations, private corporations and others to work with government at all levels to facilitate and implement programs and incentives geared towards enhancing the physical activity/fitness and sports participation of our cities' residents.

THE LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND AND THE URBAN PARKS AND RECREATION RECOVERY PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and Urban Parks and Recreation Recovery Program (UPARR) return conservation and recreation funds to states and local governments; and

WHEREAS, LWCF and UPARR have been responsible for more than 38,000 community parks; and

WHEREAS, LWCF and UPARR have been integral to a healthy and safe urban community life through funding municipal parks, and creating urban soccer, baseball, and football fields; and

WHEREAS, LWCF and UPARR encourage and promote healthy lifestyles, an area of growing concern; and

WHEREAS, LWCF and UPARR promote smart growth and livable communities; and

WHEREAS, LWCF and UPARR are critical resources for providing recreation places for America's young people; and

WHEREAS, LWCF and UPARR advance economic and job development in cities,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Congress fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund's stateside, Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and territories program at no less than the Administration's request of \$200 million; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Congress fund the UPARR at no less than \$30 million.

ECONOMIC IMPACT STUDY OF THE NONPROFIT ARTS INDUSTRY

WHEREAS, Americans for the Arts conducted a benchmark study of the national economic impact of the nonprofit arts industry in 33 communities across the United States in 1993; and

WHEREAS, it was found that the nonprofit arts industry generates \$36.8 billion annually in economic activity and supports 1.3 million jobs — from large urban to small rural communities and that the nonprofit arts industry annually returns \$3.4 billion in federal income taxes, \$1.2 billion in state government revenue and \$790 million in local government revenue; and

WHEREAS, Americans for the Arts will release an updated national economic impact study in June 2002, entitled, ***The Arts and Economic Prosperity***, measuring both the direct economic impact of the nonprofit arts industry in 85 communities as well as the indirect economic impact of these cultural organization's related audience expenditures; and

WHEREAS, this new Arts and Economic Prosperity study collected extensive survey data from more than 2,700 arts organizations and 110,000 audience attendees; and

WHEREAS, findings from the Arts and Economic Prosperity study reveal that America's nonprofit arts industry generates \$134 billion in economic activity every year—\$53 billion in spending by arts organizations and an additional \$80 billion in event-related spending by arts audiences. This economic activity results in a significant impact on the nation's economy:

- Total Expenditures \$134 billion
- Full-Time Jobs \$4.85 million
- Household income \$89.4 billion
- Local Government Revenue \$6.6 billion
- State Government Revenue \$7.3 billion
- Federal Income Tax Revenue \$10.5 billion

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the United States Conference of Mayors supports the findings of the *Arts and Economic Prosperity* study and urges mayors across the country 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.

MUSEUMS CELEBRATE AMERICA’S FREEDOMS

WHEREAS, American museums are deeply involved in the life of their communities; using collections and exhibitions, they are centers of civic engagement with programs and services for families, communities, lifelong learners and schools; and

WHEREAS, on September 11, 2002 every American will reflect on both the tragedy of September 11, 2001 and on what it means to live in a country that values freedom; and

WHEREAS, as stewards of the nation’s stories, museums offer their communities special places to examine and reaffirm such precious freedoms as:

- Freedom to assemble
- Freedom to create
- Freedom to worship
- Freedom to express ideas
- Freedom from fear; and

WHEREAS, involving the whole of the American museum community in a single initiative powerfully underscores the central role museums play in communities across the United States,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the United States Conference of Mayors will join with the members of the American Association of Museums in “A Day of Remembrance and a Celebration of American Freedoms” on and around September 11, 2002, that will sponsor activities to continue the quest for understanding and inspiration and the need to safeguard the values that sustain American greatness.

CHILDREN, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

DESIGNATING JUNE 5, 2002 AND JUNE 5, 2003, EACH AS "NATIONAL HUNGER AWARENESS DAY"

WHEREAS, food insecurity and hunger are daily facts of life for millions of low-income Americans; and

WHEREAS, millions of hungry children in the United States suffer serious effects of food insecurity, including physical, mental, and social impairment; and

WHEREAS, the problem of hunger and food insecurity can be found in rural, suburban, and urban America, touching nearly every American community; and

WHEREAS, although substantial progress has been made in reducing the incidence of hunger and food insecurity in the United States, certain groups, notably the working poor, the elderly, homeless people, children, migrant workers and Native Americans remain vulnerable to hunger and the negative effects of food deprivation; and

WHEREAS, the people of the United States have a long tradition of providing food assistance to hungry people through acts of private generosity and public support programs; and

WHEREAS, The United States Conference of Mayors Initiative on Hunger and Homelessness, directed through the Conference's Task Force on Hunger and Homelessness supports child nutrition programs and food donation programs, and supports providing essential nutrition support to millions of low-income people; and

WHEREAS, there is a growing awareness of the important public and private partnership role that community-based organizations, institutions of faith, and charities provide in assisting the hungry and food insecure people; and

WHEREAS, more than 50,000 local community based organizations rely on the support and efforts of more than one million volunteers to provide food assistance and services to millions of vulnerable people; and

WHEREAS, a diverse group of organizations, including America's Second Harvest, The U.S. Conference of Mayors, and other organizations have documented substantial increases in requests for emergency food assistance over the past year; and

WHEREAS, all Americans across the country can help participate in hunger relief efforts in their communities through donating food, money, or through volunteerism and by supporting public policies aimed at reducing hunger,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that June 5, 2002 and June 5, 2003 are each designated as "National Hunger Awareness Day," and The U.S. Conference of Mayors is authorized and requested to issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States in all communities across the country to observe National Hunger Awareness Day with appropriate ceremonies and activities of volunteerism and support for local anti-hunger advocacy efforts and hunger relief charities, including food banks, food rescue organizations, food pantries, soup kitchens and emergency shelters, and through the year-round support of programs and public policies that reduce hunger and food insecurity in all local communities across the country; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that by taking action to end hunger through activities and initiatives throughout the year, The U.S. Conference of Mayors can work together to raise awareness and educate local municipalities on the hunger issue. The need is great, and The U.S. Conference of Mayors can mobilize Americans to take action to feed America's hungry.

AIDS IN THE UNITED STATES AND AROUND THE WORLD

WHEREAS, UNAIDS reports that since the beginning of the epidemic more than 18 million lives have been lost to AIDS, nearly 15 million of them in sub-Saharan Africa, and with 34 million people estimated to be living with HIV or AIDS worldwide and 5 million people becoming newly infected each year, the death toll is expected to double in the next decade; and

WHEREAS, it is projected that HIV will kill at least one-third of young men and women in countries where HIV is most prevalent, and in some places, up to two-thirds, drastically altering the structure of their population and the future of their communities; and

WHEREAS, in the United States, though there have been recent declines in AIDS-related deaths, the HIV/AIDS epidemic remains an enormous health emergency – 338,978 people are living with AIDS in the U.S., more than 40,000 Americans become newly infected with HIV each year, and persons of color are being disproportionately impacted, accounting for 30% of the U.S. population and 60% of all new AIDS cases; and

WHEREAS, 83% of persons with AIDS in the United States live in our urban cities and rely on public health care and social service systems for care and treatment, making funding for prevention, early diagnosis, treatment and supportive services critical investments in our people, our cities, and our health care system; and

WHEREAS, the largest discretionary investment in the care of people with HIV/AIDS, the Ryan White CARE Act, supports life-sustaining medical care and support services to under and uninsured persons with HIV/AIDS, the majority of whom are people of color; and

WHEREAS, in order to reduce new infections, ensure quality health care, and prolong the lives of persons living with HIV/AIDS, the United States must continue to allocate sufficient resources for domestic and global HIV/AIDS prevention, care and research programs; and

WHEREAS, the Administration announced a U.S. commitment of \$200 million to the global fund to fight HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis and announced the United States' participation in a coordinated and collaborative worldwide response to the devastation caused by these diseases; and has proposed FY 2003 budget increases for AIDS-related research programs and for the Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS Program,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors commends the Administration for its commitment to combat HIV/AIDS abroad and urges the allocation of additional resources to stem the spread of this global pandemic; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges the Administration and Congress to increase funding for critical domestic HIV/AIDS programs by allocating an additional \$303.7 million to the Ryan White CARE Act, including \$43 million for Title I, \$162 million for Title II AIDS Drug Assistance Program, and \$14 million for Title III; an additional \$159 million for the Minority AIDS Initiative; an additional \$303.4 million to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for domestic prevention programs; an additional \$384 million for research to the National Institutes of Health; and an additional \$48 million for the Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS program.

SUPPORTING HIGH QUALITY CHILD CARE

WHEREAS, high-quality and affordable child care helps children learn and supports families; and

WHEREAS, the need for child care and after-school programs is a daily concern for millions of working parents; and

WHEREAS, every day, 13 million preschoolers, including 6 million infants and toddlers, are in child care; and

WHEREAS, nearly 7 million children are left home alone after school every day while their parents work; and

WHEREAS, the parents of only one in seven eligible children receive financial assistance for child care; and

WHEREAS, research on early brain development demonstrates that the experiences children have and the attachments they form have a decisive, long-lasting impact on their later development and learning; and

WHEREAS, children who attend high-quality early care and education programs enter school better able to learn and more likely to succeed in school; and

WHEREAS, high-quality child care helps children develop language, cognitive, and social skills, which are essential to academic achievement; and

WHEREAS, child care and after-school programs promote learning and enhance the physical, social, emotional, and moral development of children; and

WHEREAS, the current Child Care and Development Fund requires a 5 percent quality set-aside for states to support initiatives that reflect recent research showing the critical link between the quality of child care and after-school programs and later academic and social success of children; and

WHEREAS, the United States Congress is currently debating the reauthorization of the Child Care and Development Fund, the federal government's primary support for child care,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors encourages the federal government to increase its support for high-quality child care by investing an additional \$20 billion over five years in the Child Care and Development Block Grant, doubling the number of eligible children served and helping two million more children and their families; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors requests that the reauthorization of the Child Care and Development Block Grant include an increase in the quality set-aside to 12 percent to improve the quality of care across the country.

TANF REAUTHORIZATION: ESSENTIAL SUPPORTS FOR MOVING FAMILIES UP THE CAREER LADDER TO SELF-SUFFICIENCY

WHEREAS, Congress is scheduled to reauthorize The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PRWORA) which provides block grants to states under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program, by September 30, 2002; and Mayors recognize that the first phase of welfare reform has been successful in terms of caseload reduction nationwide; and

WHEREAS, Mayors are concerned that the goal of self-sufficiency in the current law is not being met. Although millions of welfare recipients have left the rolls and gone to work, very few of them are near self-sufficiency; and

WHEREAS, self-sufficiency is not meeting the poverty line, nor becoming ineligible for cash assistance under TANF, nor becoming ineligible for social safety net programs like housing and food stamps. Self sufficiency is when a family can meet its basic needs for housing, food, health care, child care, transportation and taxes; and

WHEREAS, TANF reauthorization must fully fund supportive services essential to obtaining and retaining a job/career; and

WHEREAS, cities face unique challenges to welfare reform because they have a greater share of the nation's welfare caseloads and have registered a much slower rate of decline, leaving many cities with a disproportionate share of hard-to-place recipients; and many of the hardest-to-serve welfare recipients live in some of the poorest, violent, isolated and blighted neighborhoods in America where poverty is an expectation and upward mobility is virtually unknown; and

WHEREAS, local elected officials will remain ultimately responsible for the welfare of most TANF recipients and TANF leavers; and

WHEREAS, supportive services including childcare, transportation, food stamps, housing supports, Medicaid, and upgrade skills training are key to enable former TANF recipients and other low-wage workers to continue working and must be in place so that people can not only obtain jobs, but retain them and move them up career ladders; and

WHEREAS, mayors are concerned about states that are using TANF funds for "supplantation" of state budgets by diverting welfare savings from their intended purpose of serving low-income families and using them for purposes unrelated to helping poor families; and

WHEREAS, TANF was designed to provide enormous flexibility based on the needs of each state and local area and mayors are very concerned that the President's proposal reverses this and is too prescriptive to states,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports the reauthorization of TANF in its block grant form with at least an inflationary increase in funding; and that TANF “self-sufficiency” be defined as the ability of a family to meet its basic needs for housing, food, childcare, transportation, healthcare and taxes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that incentives must be awarded based on a state’s ability to move families towards the goal of family self-sufficiency; and that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to ensure that state TANF savings are used as intended to be reinvested into low-income families and not to supplant state spending; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that TANF reauthorization should provide local flexibility to design a mix of services to enable TANF recipients to meet the competing responsibilities of work, family and skill development; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that work supports must be provided beyond the date that individuals replace cash assistance with work income, including quality childcare, Medical Assistance coverage, support for drug treatment and mental health rehabilitation, transportation solutions that enhance job access and access to affordable public housing benefits; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls for Congress to invest at least \$20 billion for childcare through the Child Care Development Block Grant to ensure that two million more eligible children could receive assistance and that quality improvements can be made.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING

SUPPORT FOR FEDERAL LEGISLATION TO COMBAT PREDATORY LENDING

WHEREAS, many cities and communities have experienced a ten-fold increase in the number of subprime loans since 1993 according to a report published by the Department of Housing and Urban Development; and

WHEREAS, several federal regulators and others recognize that a subset of subprime lenders engage in predatory lending, which includes unscrupulous lending practices involving misleading marketing and high pressure lending tactics, excessive fees, exorbitant interest rates, and hidden loan terms; and

WHEREAS, these lending practices strip hard-earned equity from homeowners, including senior citizens, putting them at risk of foreclosure and damaging their credit ratings; and

WHEREAS, the increase in foreclosed and vacant homes leads to decreasing property values for neighboring homeowners, increased crime activity, and threatens neighborhood blight; and

WHEREAS, regulatory oversight and examination of the institutions engaged in these activities has been at best inadequate; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the U.S. Treasury Department, the Federal banking regulatory agencies, and the Federal Trade Commission have identified predatory mortgage lending as a serious problem in need of further action; and

WHEREAS, local and state governments have taken steps to prohibit certain lending practices in an effort to combat predatory lending; and

WHEREAS, a recent study by the Center for Community Change found that pervasive racial disparities exist within the sub-prime lending market, and that African Americans and Hispanics are disproportionately represented in the subprime home refinance market; and

WHEREAS, the studies findings suggest that racial disparities exist at all income levels, in all regions, and in cities and metropolitan areas of all sizes; and

WHEREAS, the Predatory Lending Consumer Protection Act of 2002 as been introduced in the United States Senate (S. 2438), and a companion bill (H.R.1051) has been introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives; and

WHEREAS, both bills promise to combat predatory lending and reduce the devastating impact lending abuse has upon our communities; and

WHEREAS, the bills are designed to strengthen current laws by closing gaps in the Truth-in-Lending Act (TILA) and the Home Owners Equity Protection Act (HOEPA); and

WHEREAS, the legislation amends HOEPA by tightening the definition of a “high cost mortgage” for which certain consumer protections are triggered,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the United States Conference of Mayors supports the “Predatory Lending Consumer Protection Act of 2002”; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the USCM supports the proposal by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve Board to strengthen the Home Owner and Equity Protection Act (HOEPA), the key Federal statutory protection against predatory lending, by lowering the interest rate based trigger by two percentage points and by including single premium credit life products paid at closing into the fee-based calculation for determining coverage, and thus expanding the scope of high cost mortgages covered by this law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the USCM supports the proposal by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System to revise the reporting requirements for lenders under the federal Home Mortgage Disclosure Act (HMDA) to make the public disclosure statute a more useful tool for combating predatory lending by requiring loan reporting include information on the cost of credit, including the annual percentage rate (APR) and whether the loan is covered; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the United States Conference of Mayors, through a Task Force on Financial Literacy and Predatory Lending shall develop a comprehensive national strategy to combat predatory lending and to promote financial literacy among its citizens.

HISTORIC HOMEOWNERSHIP TAX CREDITS

WHEREAS, the Historic Homeownership Assistance Act has been introduced in both the House (H.R. 1172) and the Senate (S. 920) and similar legislation enjoyed broad bipartisan support in the previous Congress; and

WHEREAS, The House bill, introduced by Representatives Clay Shaw and John Lewis boasts 151 cosponsors and the Senate bill, introduced by Senator John Breaux has 11 cosponsors; and

WHEREAS, the proposed legislation would provide a 20 percent tax credit to a homeowner against the homeowner's federal income taxes for rehabilitation expenses up to \$40,000 on a primary residence that is located in a federal state or local historic district; and

WHEREAS, it would benefit moderate-income tax payers by allowing the credit to be claimed in the form of a mortgage credit transferred to a bank or lender to reduce mortgage interest rates for those tax payers without adequate tax liability to claim the credit; and

WHEREAS, it would not allow the credit to be claimed for the cost of expanding a house; and

WHEREAS, it would allow for relaxed historic rehabilitation standards in distressed neighborhoods if the condition of the property or the neighborhood warranted such a relaxation; and

WHEREAS, the National Trust for Historic Preservation estimates that the United States has 11,436 historic districts with 870,112 historic buildings, including 3,747 historic districts with 505,739 historic buildings that are located in census tracts with 20 percent or more poverty; and

WHEREAS, the vast majority of these historic districts and buildings are located in cities; and

WHEREAS, the Historic Homeownership Assistance Act would encourage the revitalization of historic urban neighborhoods, make city neighborhoods more attractive for many homebuyers, boost community development efforts, and increase the availability of affordable housing,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors supports the Historic Homeownership Assistance Act and urges Congress and President Bush to enact it expeditiously.

INCREASING MINORITY HOMEOWNERSHIP RATES

WHEREAS, minority homeownership grew four times faster than for whites in the 1990s, but the African American and Hispanic homeownership rate is still only 48 percent compared with 74 percent rate for white families and 68 percent for the nation as a whole; and

WHEREAS, owning their own homes is how most American families create wealth in the form of accumulated equity and significant tax savings through mortgage interest rate deductions; and

WHEREAS, The Congressional Black Caucus Foundation (CBCF) has launched the initiative, *With Ownership Wealth (WOW)*, and, the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute (CHCI) has launched efforts to promote minority homeownership, and

WHEREAS, increased homeownership rates among minority citizens will depend on continued commitment to fair housing laws that ensures equal opportunity in buying a home; and

WHEREAS, the CBCF and the CHCI are encouraging mayors to join as partners to increase minority homeownership and to encourage participation by the financial institutions, trade associations, mortgage insurance companies, realtors, and community-based organizations in minority homeownership efforts in our communities,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the United States Conference of Mayors calls on mayors to develop public/private coalitions to provide citizens, especially in the minority and traditionally underserved neighborhoods, with enhanced opportunities to homeownership; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors recognizes the need for improved financial literacy among consumers, and will work to bring together civic, business, and community leaders so that they can develop initiatives to help consumers have access to the information and tools they need to build solid financial futures and to help minorities purchase homes, which in turns helps to build sound and stable communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the nation renew its commitment to fair housing laws that safeguard every American's opportunity to purchase a home in the neighborhood of his or her choice, further contributing to the stabilization and revitalization of communities in America's cities.

TANF AND HOUSING POLICY

WHEREAS, many American families leaving welfare for work opportunities face enormous problems in finding affordable housing; and

WHEREAS, the National Survey of American Families found that the total average monthly income of households that previously received welfare benefits is only \$1,261 a month; and

WHEREAS, a family with this income would have to pay 58 percent of its total income to rent a two bedroom unit at the Fair Market Rent in jurisdictions with rental costs at the national median; and

WHEREAS, only about 30 percent of families receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) income also receive housing assistance; and

WHEREAS, former welfare recipients appear more likely to succeed in the workplace with stable and affordable housing; and

WHEREAS, Congress is considering reauthorization of TANF, as well as reevaluating federal housing programs,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the United States Conference of Mayors supports a complementary and coordinated housing and TANF agenda that:

- Makes it simpler for states to use TANF funds to provide supplemental housing benefits;
- Funds new welfare to work vouchers;
- Funds a new joint HUD/HHS demonstration project for families with multiple barriers to work that combines housing assistance with services;
- Encourages welfare agencies and housing agencies to cooperate and requires states to consider housing needs in TANF planning and implementation;
- Expands the availability of housing vouchers where needed and expands production of workforce housing where needed. Public housing authorities should also be allowed to attach a certain percentage of vouchers to newly constructed or substantially rehabilitated units; and
- Expands the Family Self-Sufficiency Program.

A PROACTIVE APPROACH TO CHILDHOOD LEAD POISONING

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control (“CDC”) identify childhood lead poisoning as entirely preventable and the most pressing environmental health problem facing young children in the United States, and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (“HUD”) estimates that 1.7 million American children have elevated blood lead levels (“BLLs”); and

WHEREAS, the inhalation and ingestion of lead particles and dust may cause irreparable cognitive deficiencies in a child, and a significant source of such particles and dust is deteriorating or damaged lead paint accessible to children; and

WHEREAS, the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency and HUD recognize intact lead paint poses little immediate risk to occupants of residential housing but estimate that 3.8 million families with young children live in housing with deteriorating, flaking lead paint and/or excessive lead dust; and

WHEREAS, The President's Task Force on Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks to Children reported in 2000 that more than 80% of the interior lead paint that still exists today was applied before 1940, that less than 4% of the existing lead-based paint was applied after 1960, and the Federal Government banned the use of lead-based paint for residential use in 1978; and

WHEREAS, the CDC reports that the prevalence of elevated blood lead levels among children living in low-income older housing is as much as 30 times greater than that of middle-income children living in newer housing; and

WHEREAS, according to the CDC, African-American children and children in low-income families appear to be disproportionately at risk, with 22% of African-American children having elevated BLLs and 85% of all children with elevated BLLs being enrolled in Medicaid; and

WHEREAS, Boston's health and housing officials have undertaken to eradicate childhood lead poisoning from that City by the year 2005 by maintaining the City's emphasis on results-oriented proactive measures that target older housing and less-advantaged neighborhoods and reduced childhood lead poisoning by 54% over the last three years; and

WHEREAS, Boston's successful experience with the challenges of lead-poisoning is replicable in most, if not all, cities and the city desires to share that experience with the entire body of the U.S. Conference of Mayors; and

WHEREAS, elements of Boston's success are attributed to rigorously enforcing the Massachusetts' law that requires vigorous blood lead level screening, thereby identifying cases of slightly elevated BLLs early, treating affected children before their exposures become severe preventing other poisonings in the same household from occurring and by stringently enforcing laws that place the responsibility on the landlord or homeowner to ensure that all units that house children under six are made lead-safe, and subjects violators to strict liability for damages to children poisoned while residing in their properties; and

WHEREAS, implementing a practical, proactive, multi-faceted approach – one that involves seeking out federal, state, and private sector grants and partnerships; dramatically increasing the rates at which children's blood lead levels are screened;

vigorously enforcing strict state lead hazard abatement laws; creatively financing lead hazard remediation in high-risk neighborhoods; and significantly improving parental and community education – mayors across America can meet the challenge of significantly reducing lead poisoning in their communities,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports:

- The White House quickly rallying federal, state, and local government, private-sector, and community leaders to eradicate childhood lead poisoning from the nation and make cities lead-safe by 2010.
- Congress significantly increasing federal funding for lead hazard remediation in privately-owned, low-income housing, through the HUD Lead Hazard Control Grant Program or otherwise, to at least \$[250] million per year.
- Health care providers diligently screening the blood lead levels of all children in high-risk areas, especially through the Medicaid Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment program, which is already mandated by federal law but not adequately implemented.
- Government officials vigorously enforcing lead-related federal, state, and local laws, including those requiring property owners to inform occupants about the risks of lead hazards, to abate any lead hazards in their properties, and to prevent any such hazards from arising in the future.
- Community, faith-based, and other nonprofit organizations assisting in comprehensively educating children, parents, and other caretakers about lead-safe health practices.
- Cities and interested businesses creatively engaging in public-private partnerships to implement best practices to advance the elimination of lead hazards and the eradication of lead poisoning.

A NEW HOUSING POLICY FOR THE NATION

WHEREAS, housing is at the core of strong communities, promoting neighborhood stability, improved educational opportunity, employment stability, and helping owners save for their futures; and

WHEREAS, housing serves as an economic generator and springboard which fosters solutions for many other national and local priorities; and

WHEREAS, housing, however, has not kept pace with the needs of the residents in most cities; and

WHEREAS, despite an all-time high homeownership rate in America of over 68 percent, the rate in cities is only 50 percent and even lower for minority and low-and moderate-income households; and

WHEREAS, more than 14 million families spend more than half their income on housing; clearly, in many markets, housing costs are growing faster than incomes,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the U.S. Conference of Mayors calls for a comprehensive national housing policy that addresses the variety of housing challenges in our urban communities, including homeownership, rental housing, public housing, special needs housing and homelessness issues; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges the Administration and Congress to work closely with the nation's mayors and their communities on the following recommendations adopted at USCM's Housing Forum to advance the goal of increasing affordable housing opportunities and access to housing:

Rental Housing

- Provide an array of tools and resources to leverage the private sector to produce and preserve an adequate supply of rental housing to meet cities' priorities.
- Provide a high priority within Federal programs on achieving both mixed income developments and neighborhoods.
- Create a new rental housing production program to serve the needs of working families with incomes up to 100 % AMI, providing adjustments for high cost areas.
- Create a National Housing Trust Fund to meet the needs of low income individuals and families through the production and preservation of rental housing; and ensure cities receive a direct allocation of funds under the Fund.
- Provide full funding for federal programs supporting rental housing production.
- Provide within Federal programs significant incentives for regional fair share housing agreements and production consistent with smart growth principles.
- Urge states to allocate existing housing resources in accordance with city priorities.
- Urge states to create a set aside of federal and state housing, social services and transportation funds to provide cities with additional funds to implement targeted comprehensive neighborhood revitalization strategies.

- Urge cities to reduce the regulatory costs of housing production and rehabilitation by streamlining building codes, inspection and the permit process as well as by adopting “smart codes.”
- Eliminate the volume cap for mortgage revenue bonds, which fund the production and preservation of affordable housing.
- Create a National Housing Opportunities Corporation to give technical assistance and support to suburban communities to develop affordable housing.
- Expand the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit to create mixed income developments.
- Given the shortfalls in the production of multi-family housing over the past decade, Congress should enact tax code provisions as incentives to the private sector to expand and preserve the supply of rental housing and underserved communities.

Homeownership

- Urge the public and private sector to promote regional planning and implementation that develops and retains a diverse housing stock.
- Urge the public and private sectors to continue to fund homeownership education and outreach, credit counseling programs, bilingual credit counseling and financial literacy programs.
- Expand the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) to cover entities currently not included by the act, such as marketing companies; expand CRA regulations to include local operations when financial institutions are not locally owned; and expand CRA ratings to include comprehensive community development activities.
- Expand CDBG and HOME funding.
- Provide more flexibility to local governments in CDBG and HOME regulations that limit the use of the funds for new construction.
- Adopt the Community Homeownership Tax Credit.
- Urge the public and private sectors to develop a secondary market for lenders to non-traditional borrowers who have had appropriate counseling and seasoned performing loans.
- Support homeownership through existing Federal policies such as the mortgage

interest deduction, mortgage revenue bonds and passage of predatory lending regulations.

- Urge cities to develop policies and programs which result in homeownership land use opportunities such as land banking, military sites reuse, brownfields reuse and in- fill housing.
- Provide full funding for comprehensive strategies such as the homeownership zone, Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities.
- Urge FHA to extend the amortization period to 40 years.
- Urge FHA to provide mortgages for accessing homeownership and home repairs to borrowers with lower credit scores and non-traditional credit histories.
- Urge the public and private sectors to aggressively target education of the elderly population of their opportunities to access financing for home repairs.
- Urge the public and private sectors to develop programs to support construction management of repair projects for elderly residents.
- Enact predatory lending legislation.
- Create incentives for local PHAs to utilize homeownership Section 8 programs.
- Over the next decade reduce disparity of homeownership rates between white and non-whites by 50 percent.
- Encourage Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac to create national employer-assisted housing programs to support homeownership by working families.

Public Housing

- Enact legislation which funds the development of 150,000 units of public housing annually for the next 10 years in a form which encourages income diversity and fosters healthy urban neighborhoods.
- Urge cities to facilitate cooperative activities between public housing authorities and public school systems in their communities; and urge Congress to authorize and fund specific programs aimed at enhancing both educational activities and housing environments of public housing children.
- Adopt Federal legislation that ensures public housing operating and capital subsidies are allocated in a manner that is predictable, objective and consistent

with actual need, and ensure funds continue to be made available directly to PHAs.

- Provide full funding for conventional public housing and Section 8 and allow cities to use funding for the two programs interchangeably as local needs dictate from time to time, including the capacity to increase the use of project based Section 8 beyond current levels.
- Urge reauthorization of HOPE VI for an additional 10 years and funded at levels recommended by the Commission on Severely Distressed Public Housing.
- Enact Federal legislation which provides maximum housing choice for senior citizens and persons with disabilities including opportunities to remain at home with necessary assistance.
- Enact Federal legislation which establishes valid and appropriate methods of assessing public housing authority performance and provide maximum flexibility for PHAs who perform well under the system.

Special Needs Housing

- Urge appointment of a Special Needs Coordinator in every city to coordinate and optimize existing funding streams for special needs populations, including Medicaid, CDBG, tax-exempt financing and other sources.
- Urge cities to charge its department leaders to develop collaborative programs between sectors, such as housing and education, housing and health services, and housing and children's services.
- Expand Section 202 funding for new construction and rental assistance.
- Provide funding for modernization of up to 32,000 units of elderly housing, with a priority for accessibility and the delivery of supportive services.
- Provide funding to preserve elderly housing, permitting non-profit organizations to purchase elderly housing projects with expiring Section 8 contracts.
- Provide funding for Service Coordinators in 21,000 units of elderly housing and provide for the ability to fund Service Coordinators through PRAC contracts.
- Increase Section 811 funding for the disabled to prior levels.
- Increase McKinney Act homeless assistance grants.

- Urge cities to dedicate 10 percent or more of all housing units in projects supported with locally administered federal funds for homeless and special needs populations, under a competitive application process.
- Streamline the Section 811 program for disabled housing to permit smaller scale projects and more flexible use of funds for purposes like capital grants, services, and tenant support.
- Provide homeless housing renewals (i.e., Shelter Plus Care, the Supportive Housing Programs, and the SRO Program) through the mainstream HUD Housing Certificate Fund, rather than through renewals of the McKinney Act programs.
- Provide increased Federal resources for supportive services, including non-HUD funding streams, such as HHS, Veteran Affairs, and Labor.

Preservation

- Support exit-tax relief to existing owners to encourage the transfer and long-term preservation of affordable rental housing to preservation entities.
- Oppose the recession of Section 236 funds and urge that these funds be made available per Title V of the FY '98 appropriation act to rehabilitate HUD-assisted properties.
- Urge states to award bonus points in their QAP or tax credits award process and create set-asides for long-term preservation of HUD-assisted Low-Income Housing Tax Credit properties.
- Urge the Federal government to focus more on small unassisted properties (less than 30 units), which are being lost at alarming rates.
 - HUD should conduct a needs assessment to determine the scope of the problem and create a sketch of the owners.
 - HUD should develop programmatic responses from the data.
 - In conjunction with the needs assessment, engage the GSEs (Fannie and Freddie Mac) in developing financing products and outreach to the ownership community.
 - Mayors advocate increased funding for CDBG and HOME for subsidized loans and grants to create long-term affordability for these small rental properties.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Conference of Mayors will urge HUD to appoint a dedicated leader who has overall responsibility for preserving the affordable rental housing inventory and reporting to cities and other municipalities on at least an annual basis on the status of the inventory in all communities in the U.S.

FUNDING HUD PROGRAMS

WHEREAS, the United States faces a crisis of individuals and families who lack affordable housing; and

WHEREAS, an estimated five million renter households in the United States have worst case housing needs, defined as households who pay more than one-half of their income for rent or live in severely substandard housing; and

WHEREAS, there is also a need to preserve existing affordable housing; and

WHEREAS, homeownership is the primary vehicle to improve individual economic well being and create wealth for households and neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, public housing continues to play a significant role in the ability of cities to maintain a diverse population and respond to the needs of a wide range of citizens; and

WHEREAS, more than 3.5 million households have special needs for housing with supportive services which are needed to stabilize these households and to allow them to progress to more permanent solutions; and

WHEREAS, financial assistance from the Federal Government is a critical element to facilitate and sustain the efforts of local governments to produce and preserve affordable housing; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors hereby urges the Congress to create an affordable rental housing production and preservation element within the HOME program authorized at a funding level of at least \$2 billion, with no less than 60 percent of the funds allocated directly to local governments; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to fund the Community Development Block Grant Formula Program at \$5 billion and the HOME Investment Partnerships Program at \$2.25 billion; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to reauthorize HOPE VI for an additional ten years and funded at levels recommended by the Commission on Severely Distressed Public Housing – \$1 billion per year; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to fund:

- Section 202 at \$760 million annually for new construction and rental assistance,
- \$250 million should be appropriated for modernization of up to 32,000 units of elderly housing, with a priority for accessibility and the delivery of supportive services,
- \$50 million should be appropriated to preserve elderly housing, permitting non-profit organizations to purchase elderly housing projects with expiring Section 8 contracts,
- Section 811 funding for the disabled should be increased to prior levels at \$400 million, and
- McKinney Act homeless assistance grants should be increased to \$1.8 billion.

SUPPORTING TERRORISM INSURANCE

WHEREAS, before September 11 insurance companies provided coverage for terrorism related losses to businesses as part of their general property and casualty policies; and

WHEREAS, after the terrorist attacks which resulted in approximately \$50 billion in insurance losses, some insurance companies and reinsurers stopped providing terrorism coverage; and

WHEREAS, when insurance companies and reinsurers provide terrorism insurance the coverage is often very limited and provided at astronomical premiums; and

WHEREAS, the lack of terrorism insurance is resulting in a significant threat to sustain economic growth in cities; and

WHEREAS, the lack of terrorism insurance is stopping some business deals such as real estate and construction projects where terrorism insurance may be necessary to obtain financing; and

WHEREAS, in the event of another terrorist attack insurance payments would not be available to rebuild,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress and the Administration to pass legislation to provide federal help in insuring against a catastrophic terrorist attack in the future.

CRIMINAL AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

HOMELAND SECURITY BLOCK GRANT

WHEREAS, America's mayors are 100 percent committed to the homeland war against terrorism; and

WHEREAS, cities throughout the nation have already dedicated unprecedented, and mostly unbudgeted, resources to the new war on terrorism as detailed in a survey released by the Conference of Mayors in January 2002 which found that from September 11, 2001 through the end of 2002, cities will spend an additional \$2.6 billion on new homeland security priorities including equipment, overtime and training; and

WHEREAS, following the tragic and criminal attacks of September 11, the Conference of Mayors sponsored a Mayors Emergency Safety and Security Summit at which mayors, police chiefs, fire chiefs, emergency managers, and public health officials developed a National Action Plan for Safety and Security in America's Cities; and

WHEREAS, the Conference of Mayors has presented this plan to the Administration in extensive meetings with President George W. Bush, Homeland Security Director Tom Ridge, Attorney General John Ashcroft, Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson, Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta, FBI Director Robert Mueller, and other top officials; and

WHEREAS, the National Action Plan has been presented to Congress in meetings and testimony before key House and Senate committees; and

WHEREAS, contained in the National Action Plan is the call for a new Homeland Security Block Grant with direct local funding and flexibility to address priority local concerns,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors calls on the Congress to pass, and the President to sign, legislation creating a Homeland Security Block Grant with direct local assistance and maximum flexibility.

FEDERAL-LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT INFORMATION SHARING

WHEREAS, with over 650,000 local officers, our nation's police forces must be integrated into our national homeland defense planning; and

WHEREAS, local public safety personnel are already being used to respond to and prevent terrorism in untold ways in cities across the nation, but to be most effective, we must ensure that mayors and local law enforcement have access to the best intelligence information available; and

WHEREAS, in the many meetings and discussions held on this subject since September 11, it became clear that barriers, both institutional and attitudinal, still exist at the federal level in regard to this priority; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors has met directly with Homeland Security Director Tom Ridge, Attorney General Ashcroft, and FBI Director Robert Mueller on this issue, and progress is being made through the Anti-Terrorism Task Forces, Joint Terrorism Task Forces, and the new Homeland Security Advisory System; and

WHEREAS, to ensure that our nation's homeland defense is as integrated as possible, barriers to greater federal-local information sharing must be reduced; and

WHEREAS, legislation has been introduced in the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives entitled the "Federal-Local Information Sharing Partnership Act" (S. 1615/H.R. 3285) which would address gaps in the USA Patriot Act by permitting federal authorities to share federal and international intelligence information with state and local police,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to pass, and the President to sign, legislation which would strengthen federal-local law enforcement communications and the sharing of intelligence.

THE COPS PROGRAM

WHEREAS, following extensive engagement by mayors and police chiefs, the United States Congress passed the Public Safety Partnership and Community Policing Act, which became law on October 1, 1994 and created the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS); and

WHEREAS, COPS has made over 32,700 grants to more than 12,400 law enforcement agencies representing an \$8.6 billion taxpayer investment in public safety; and

WHEREAS, COPS grants have been used to fund the hiring and redeployment of over 114,000 additional officers including 4,500 School Resource Officers, expand and

enhance crime-fighting technology, support crime prevention, and advance community policing; and

WHEREAS, COPS has trained over 173,000 law enforcement personnel, local government leaders, and community members in various community policing strategies, produced over 450 publications and resource materials for law enforcement, and invested over \$500 million in youth/school crime prevention, intervention, and enforcement; and

WHEREAS, state and local law enforcement agencies have used \$141.9 million in COPS funding to combat the proliferation of methamphetamine by hiring personnel, purchasing equipment, cleaning-up labs, and obtaining critical training in meth-related interdiction tactics, investigation, and prosecution; and

WHEREAS, the COPS Office enjoys a unique relationship with state and local law enforcement and does a superb job of providing vital funding, quickly and efficiently, to local communities, and is cited by mayors and police chiefs as a model federal agency; and

WHEREAS, a recent University of Nebraska study, the most comprehensive look ever at the impact of police presence on crime rates, found that COPS funding is directly linked to the drop in crime since 1995, preventing tens of thousands of violent crimes and hundreds of thousands of property crimes; and

WHEREAS, the nation must remain diligent on crime prevention and control efforts to ensure that past gains are maintained and that crime rates are further reduced, especially as they relate to youth violence and crime, new and evolving drug-related crime concerns, and in light of the anticipated return of over 600,000 ex-offenders from prisons and jails back into local communities in 2002 alone--many of whom will have not received needed drug treatment; and

WHEREAS, after the tragic events of September 11, cities across America used COPS funded technology and training to improve data and intelligence collection and processing, advance communication and coordination between public safety agencies, reduce community fear by delivering timely information, and increase law enforcement's capacity to prevent and respond to terrorist activity; and

WHEREAS, community policing and the COPS Office can and should play an important role in efforts to enhance homeland security; and

WHEREAS, the Administration's Fiscal Year 2003 budget proposes to cut the COPS program by 80 percent, thereby eliminating funding for hiring programs such as the Universal Hiring Program, COPS MORE, and School Resource Officers; and

WHEREAS, the Senate Judiciary Committee has approved bi-partisan legislation to reauthorize the COPS program and provide increased flexibility in its use including overtime and officer retention,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the COPS program must be fully maintained in FY 2003 and beyond through the appropriations process; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to pass, and the President to sign, legislation to reauthorize the COPS program with increased flexibility.

THE LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT BLOCK GRANT

WHEREAS, in 1996 Congress began providing flexible funding directly to local governments through the Local Law Enforcement Block Grant (LLEBG) and cities have effectively used these block grant funds for prevention, increased police presence, and technology and equipment, among other activities; and

WHEREAS, many cities have used the Local Law Enforcement Block Grant very effectively in tandem with the COPS program to expand community policing efforts; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Justice has done a superb job in effectively and efficiently administering the Local Law Enforcement Block Grant; and

WHEREAS, the nation must remain diligent on crime prevention and control efforts to ensure that past gains are maintained and that crime rates are further reduced, especially as they relate to youth violence and crime, new and evolving drug-related crime concerns, and in light of the anticipated return of over 600,000 ex-offenders from prisons and jails back into local communities in 2002 alone--many of whom will have not received needed drug treatment; and

WHEREAS, the LLEBG is one of the few federal-local partnership programs which allows for overtime assistance, which has become even more important as cities respond to the new homeland war against terrorism post September 11; and

WHEREAS, in FY 2002, the LLEBG was cut by more than 23 percent, from \$523 million to \$400 million; and

WHEREAS, the Administration's Fiscal Year 2003 budget proposes to eliminate the Local Law Enforcement Block Grant by merging it with the state-based Byrne Formula Grant program, with overall funding for the new Justice Assistance Grant program cut by 20 percent,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors registers its strong support for the Local Law Enforcement Block Grant and urges that it not be merged with the state-based Byrne Grant program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Local Law Enforcement Block Grant should be funded at a minimum amount of \$523 million in Fiscal Year 2003, which reflects funding levels prior to the 23 percent cut in FY 2002.

FBI REORGANIZATION

WHEREAS, following the tragic and criminal attacks of September 11, The U.S. Conference of Mayors sponsored a Mayors Emergency Safety and Security Summit in October of 2001 at which mayors, police chiefs, fire chiefs, emergency managers, and public health officials developed a National Action Plan for Safety and Security in America's Cities which has been presented to President Bush, the Administration and Congress; and

WHEREAS, a significant portion of the National Action Plan is devoted to the issue of Federal-Local Law Enforcement and the need for a new protocol governing how local law enforcement agencies can assist federal agencies, particularly the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), if given the information needed to do so; and

WHEREAS, mayors and police chiefs have continued to raise questions as to the respective roles of the various law enforcement task forces organized by the federal government related to homeland security, such as the Joint Terrorism Task Forces and the Anti-Terrorism Task Forces; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors has met directly with FBI Director Robert S. Mueller, Attorney General John Ashcroft and Homeland Security Director Tom Ridge on the need for better integration of local and federal law enforcement resources and intelligence, all of whom committed to working with mayors and local law enforcement to strengthen this relationship; and

WHEREAS, the nation's mayors and police chiefs are also concerned about continuing issues related to traditional crime, particularly drug-related crime, much of which originates outside of city and U.S. borders; and

WHEREAS, FBI Director Mueller has now announced a major reorganization of the FBI, which could have major impacts on both anti-terrorism efforts and traditional law enforcement,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors commends the U.S. Department of Justice and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) for moving forward with plans to restructure the FBI to meet the needs of terrorism prevention, and urges that mayors be directly involved in the implementation effort to help develop protocols which ensure that local-law enforcement is made an integral part of the national intelligence network, and is provided needed information in the most timely manner possible; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Department of Justice and FBI engage in a detailed and structured conversation with the U.S. Conference of Mayors to understand what the new structure of the FBI will mean for the critical homeland war against terrorism, as well as traditional law enforcement and crime fighting in this nation.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

WHEREAS, America's mayors are 100 percent committed to the homeland war against terrorism; and

WHEREAS, following the tragic and criminal attacks of September 11, the Conference of Mayors sponsored a Mayors Emergency Safety and Security Summit in October of 2001 at which mayors, police chiefs, fire chiefs, emergency managers, and public health officials developed a National Action Plan for Safety and Security in America's Cities which has been presented to President Bush, the Administration and Congress; and

WHEREAS, mayors have long been concerned by the multiplicity of federal agencies which have responsibility for helping cities prepare for a possible weapons of mass destruction event, and for the incident and the incident consequences stages of an attack; and

WHEREAS, the National Action Plan specifically calls for the creation of a new Cabinet-level office of Homeland Security to be authorized by Congress with full budgetary authority over all federal personnel and programs related to the domestic protection of our homeland; and

WHEREAS, President George W. Bush has proposed the creation of a new Cabinet-level Department of Homeland Security with streamlined decision-making authority and control over many homeland defense functions,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors supports the creation of a new Department of Homeland Security; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the President, his Administration and Congress should work closely with the nation's mayors in developing the final structure of this new Department, and on the implementation of this important streamlining and coordination effort; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by The U.S. Conference of Mayors that the Congress of the United States must and should create or designate a single entity, within the executive branch of the federal government, to serve as a single point of contact for local public safety agencies, and to develop and promulgate a single, national strategy for terrorism preparedness, that focuses on local needs, and provides a framework through which progress can be measured; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the new Department of Homeland Security should be structured to streamline federal terrorism prevention and emergency preparedness programs, ensure that funding is provided directly to cities and our first responders, and ensure that critical intelligence is shared with mayors and our local law enforcement personnel.

ENERGY

MUNICIPAL AND NATIONAL COMMITMENT TO REDUCE GREENHOUSE GASES

WHEREAS, the scientific community has reached a consensus that human activities are impacting the Earth's climate which has already warmed by a half to one full degree Fahrenheit during the 20th century with the potential of much greater warming in the 21st century; and

WHEREAS, global climate change is caused by emission of greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide from energy used by the business, transportation, and residential sectors, as well as methane from the decay of waste; and

WHEREAS, global climate change caused by greenhouse gases threaten the health and safety of our cities and communities; and

WHEREAS, while global climate change is a national and international issue, there are opportunities for local governments and others to reduce these negative consequences for cities; and

WHEREAS, global climate change, is linked to emerging infectious diseases, like West Nile virus, which place a growing burden on cities and communities to engage in measures to protect the health of residents; and

WHEREAS, global climate change is also associated with air pollution and elevated rates of respiratory problems such as asthma and lung cancer; and

WHEREAS, global climate change could also increase the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events that result in costly disasters such as flooding and severe drought; and

WHEREAS, recognizing that mayors are uniquely situated to lead national climate protection efforts by taking action in a broad range of areas; and

WHEREAS, more aggressive energy conservation efforts can save money and resources, and the promotion of cleaner energy technologies can stimulate local industries and provide jobs; and

WHEREAS, many mayors are already pursuing programs and policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in their cities and communities, including more than 125 local governments that have committed to assessing emissions, setting a specific reduction target for greenhouse gas emissions and monitoring progress,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on cities and communities to join the commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by adopting policies that encourage energy conservation and a reduction in municipal energy use, by adopting standards for energy efficiency in buildings and use of renewable energy resources, and by reducing fuel consumption through broader commitments to public transit and other alternatives to automobiles; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Conference recommends that the federal government continue its climate research to improve scientific understanding of global climate change and continue to assess the potential economic and environmental consequences of proposed policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Conference believes that state and federal government should provide new resources and incentives to local governments for the implementation of greenhouse gas reduction measures and for local energy and air pollution research to develop new, cost-effective approaches that minimize greenhouse gas emissions and engage in public-private partnerships that foster innovative technologies to combat global climate change.

RENEWABLE PORTFOLIO STANDARD (RPS)

WHEREAS, communities nationwide have adopted an integrated waste management approach that includes renewable energy sources such as geothermal, wind, solar, hydroelectric, waste-to-energy, gasification, biosolids and landfill gas recovery projects that are compatible with recycling programs and generate energy from waste; and

WHEREAS, local communities must ensure the delivery of essential services such as electricity, residential and commercial waste collection and disposal, source-separated recycling programs and environmental education; and

WHEREAS, renewable energy sources can provide a number of benefits to the community, including a reliable clean source of power while reducing dependence on imported fossil fuels, conserving valuable landfill space and preserving our natural resources; and

WHEREAS, many communities have invested in these clean renewable projects to help manage their municipal solid waste with the assurance that long-term contracts for the sale of electric power under the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act (PURPA) would always be available; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Congress has held that if electricity markets are deregulated and made more competitive, PURPA would be repealed causing some communities economic harm,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports federal and state legislation that promotes a marketplace for renewable energy sources by establishing renewable portfolio standards for all qualified renewable facilities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges federal lawmakers to ensure that all renewable energy technologies, including geothermal, wind, solar, hydroelectric, waste-to-energy and landfill gas projects, be treated equally under any federal renewable mandate.

PROMOTE FUNCTIONING WHOLESALE ELECTRICITY MARKETS

WHEREAS, western wholesale electricity markets suffered severe power shortages, skyrocketing electricity prices, infrastructure insufficiencies and extreme price and supply volatility; and

WHEREAS, this wholesale market dysfunction led to power system failures, rolling blackouts, and a downturn in the region's economy – the electric reliability impacts may be felt for years; and

WHEREAS, the state of California, other Western States and other officials have alleged market power abuse and market manipulation by energy trading companies contributed to the severity of the western wholesale electricity market crisis which adversely affected electric consumers' bills; and

WHEREAS, Enron Corporation recently released documents revealing that the company's trading arm engaged in calculated strategies to manipulate the western wholesale energy market to inflate profits; and

WHEREAS, the documents show that Enron's traders intentionally misled California and other officials in the Western States, falsified bid information and schemed to avoid federal price caps in order to inflate energy prices and profits; and

WHEREAS, the documents allege that traders from other energy trading companies also engage in these strategies to manipulate the wholesale energy market and inflate prices and profits; and

WHEREAS, allegations of market flaws and abuse exist for wholesale electricity markets across the country,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports quick and decisive action by federal regulators and the U.S. Congress to ensure that strong consumer protection rules exist to promote functioning wholesale electricity markets, assure reliable electric service, and allow for effective marketplace monitoring to prevent manipulation and abuse; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if such action is not taken, consumers across the country are likely to suffer the extreme price spikes and service disruptions that occurred in the West.

TRADABLE TAX CREDITS

WHEREAS, clean air, energy efficiency and increased use of renewable energy resources are key goals for all municipalities across the country; and

WHEREAS, an incentive designed for municipal-owned utilities, such as a tradable tax credit, would ensure that diverse fuel sources are promoted in all sectors of the electric industry and potentially available to all electricity customers; and

WHEREAS, Congress and the Administration are currently reviewing legislative options to promote the increased production of renewable, advanced and clean energy resources; and

WHEREAS, renewable generating resources and advanced clean generation technologies are more expensive to construct and operate than traditional generation resources; and

WHEREAS, the federal government needs to provide incentives to encourage these facilities; and

WHEREAS, conventional tax credits under the Federal Tax Code do not create incentives for municipalities to make investments in clean energy production; and

WHEREAS, in order to receive an incentive to promote alternative resources in their communities, municipalities that generate electricity would need the ability to sell the tax benefits to customers or private entities who can utilize them, and pass the savings along to consumers,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports tradable tax credits for municipalities who make investments in clean and renewable technologies for generation of energy, such as the tradable tax credits included in the Senate-passed energy bill that provide incentives for municipalities to produce energy from renewable resources and clean coal technology.

TRANSPORTATION OF HIGH LEVEL NUCLEAR WASTE

WHEREAS, the International Atomic Energy Agency and the Nuclear Energy Agency of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development have issued a report commissioned by the DOE concluding that the DOE lacks sufficient information to predict the suitability and hydrogeologic performance of the proposed Yucca Mountain repository; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Energy (DOE) has no feasible plan for transportation of these materials; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Transportation has stated it is not fully prepared for the forecasted increase in shipments of High Level Waste (HLW); and

WHEREAS, the casks used to ship(HLW)have never undergone full-scale physical testing to determine if they can withstand likely transportation accident and terrorism scenarios; and

WHEREAS, there is national acknowledgment of risks to our security and the safety of our communities presented by the transportation of HLW; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the United States Conference of Mayors urges the United States Congress to pass legislation that prohibits the movement of any HLW unless beginning three (3) years prior to any such movement, all cities along the proposed transportation route have received adequate funds, training and equipment to protect the public health and safety in the event of an accident;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in order to ensure that the actual transport of HLW be safely accomplished that prior to the movement of HLW, state of the art technology, engineering and procedures related to the transport of this material be reviewed in the context of past transport incidences and or future or predictable incidences related to transport accidents. That the lessons learned from this review be applied to HLW transport.

ENVIRONMENT

CLEAN AIR AND UTILITIES

WHEREAS, the Nation's Mayors seek to provide affordable energy and clean air in their communities; and

WHEREAS, under the Clean Air Act, States develop State Implementation Plans (SIP's) for areas that do not comply with National Ambient Air Quality Standards; and

WHEREAS, city infrastructure investment, economic development decisions, and transportation planning are constrained by emissions limits under SIPs; and

WHEREAS, up to forty percent of emissions are generated from mobile sources such as cars, trucks, trains, airplanes and commercial equipment, and up to fifty percent from stationary sources such as those from the industrial and electric-power generation sectors; and

WHEREAS, local governments have recognized that emissions in non-attainment areas come from the transportation sector and that local government have the authority to address some aspects of transportation emission levels, cities have made substantial investments aimed at improving air quality, through such means as smart growth planning, transit-oriented development, and use of alternative fuels in municipal fleets; and

WHEREAS, the Clean Air Act did not require coal-fired power plants, built before 1977, to install modern pollution controls with the understanding that these older plants would be retired and new, cleaner ones built in their place; and

WHEREAS, many of these older power plants are still operating and have not yet installed modernized pollution controls, thereby contributing significantly to the Ozone and Particular Matter problems in non-attainment areas; and

WHEREAS, a number of different proposals have been introduced by Congress and the Administration to address the issue of clean air standards and utilities through a multi-pollutant approach,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors encourages the Administration to enforce existing regulations and Congress to pass new legislation requiring older power plants to reduce all air emissions, focusing on results-based outcomes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports a comprehensive and synchronized multi-pollutant market-based program to reduce regulatory costs, maintain reliable energy for consumers, and provide certainty to the electric power sector in ways that do not compromise public health; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors encourages Congress to set national air emission caps under a multi-pollutant plan at levels strong enough to substantively assist cities in their efforts to attain the National Ambient Air Quality Standards by statutory guidelines; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors encourages Congress to neither preempt nor restrict the ability of State and local authorities to take further action in this area if needed; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that until any new programs have been proven over time to be as protective as current Clean Air Act programs, The U.S. Conference of Mayors encourages EPA and Congress to keep those programs in place, with multi-pollutant legislation as an addition to current clean air law.

FULL FUNDING OF THE SMALL BUSINESS AND BROWNFIELDS REDEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2002

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors has long supported the creation and implementation of tools and resources targeted to redevelop the estimated 600,000 brownfield properties; and

WHEREAS, local governments have taken an active leadership role in identifying, assessing, and redeveloping brownfield properties in their communities and have proven local government's effectiveness in redeveloping brownfield sites; and

WHEREAS, Congress has passed and the President has signed into law The Small Business Liability and Brownfields Redevelopment Act of 2001; and

WHEREAS, the Small Business Liability and Brownfields Redevelopment Act of 2001 addresses the three highest ranked impediments of brownfields redevelopment that have been identified by the Conference of Mayors' "Recycling America's Land" Report including:

- providing grants and loans to cleanup brownfield sites and sites contaminated with petroleum-based products;
 - providing monetary resources to conduct site assessments; and
 - providing liability relief for innocent developers of brownfield properties;
- and

WHEREAS, money to conduct cleanup of brownfield sites was ranked by over ninety percent of survey respondents as the number one impediment to redevelop brownfield sites; and

WHEREAS, the Small Business Liability and Brownfields Redevelopment Act of 2001 authorizes \$250 million to conduct these and other activities such as enhancement of State Brownfield programs,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors thanks the Congress and the President for passing the Small Business Liability and Brownfields Redevelopment Act of 2001; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Conference of Mayors strongly encourages Congress to fully fund the Small Business Liability and Brownfields Redevelopment Act of 2001; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Conference of Mayors strongly encourages Congress and the Environmental Protection Agency to target a substantial portion of the appropriated funds directly to local governments to conduct cleanups of sites and environmental assessments.

WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2002

WHEREAS, the United States Congress will consider reauthorization of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) during the current 107th Congress; and

WHEREAS, the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) provides leadership for important water resources projects for navigation, flood damage reduction and environmental restoration that are important to communities throughout the country; and

WHEREAS, authority for these projects is provided biennially in even numbered years by Congress through WRDA; and

WHEREAS, the Water Resources Development Act is important because with few exceptions, USACE projects are individually formulated, developed and authorized in this legislation; and

WHEREAS, the Water Resources Development Act often includes new policy initiatives that either empower new programs or improve the delivery of existing programs; and

WHEREAS, many communities interested in water resources development have put forward numerous proposals for new projects as well as proposals to make

USACE project delivery more responsive to non-federal interests, including the nation's cities,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the United States Conference of Mayors supports this critical legislation that will ensure authorization of projects important to the nation's cities and empower USACE to secure appropriations to construct these important infrastructure investments; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States Conference of Mayors urges Congress to reauthorize the Water Resources Development Act in 2002; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States Conference of Mayors requests Congress act expeditiously to pass this important legislation.

EDA AND HUD ASSISTANCE TO REDEVELOP BROWNFIELD SITES

WHEREAS, the Nation's Mayors have long since recognized the importance of redeveloping brownfield properties within their communities as a catalyst for economic development, job creation, and neighborhood improvement; and

WHEREAS, the Small Business Liability and Brownfields Redevelopment Act of 2001 that was signed into law provides monies to do cleanup and assessments of brownfields sites and liability relief for innocent developers and municipalities; and

WHEREAS, the Conference Mayors also recognizes the need for additional tools and programs to address other impediments facing brownfields revitalization such as funding for economic and community redevelopment; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration are the primary federal partners who are responsible for supporting community and economic development activities; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Housing and Urban Development has created the Brownfields Economic Development Initiative (BEDI), to assist in the development of brownfield properties through activities such as land acquisition, site preparation, and economic development; and

WHEREAS, the BEDI program requires local governments to use their Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) monies as partial collateral for a loan guarantee under the section 108 loan program, thereby causing a barrier for many communities to not fully utilize the BEDI program; and

WHEREAS, while the Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration has strategically targeted brownfield redevelopment projects in the past through utilization of existing programs, there is no specific program targeted for brownfield activities; and

WHEREAS, since the Department of Commerce does not have a specific program targeting brownfields redevelopment, all future funding of brownfield redevelopment projects are subject to the priorities established by Secretary of Commerce and Congress; and

WHEREAS, the Conference of Mayors believes that establishment of a brownfields economic development program at the Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration and the Department of Housing and Urban Development would greatly support local government efforts to revitalize brownfield properties; and

WHEREAS, Congress is currently considering several bills that would seek to address the aforementioned issues,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Conference of Mayors strongly encourages Congress to enact legislation that would establish at the Department of Housing and Urban Development a brownfields redevelopment grant that is not tied to the section 108 loan program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Conference of Mayors strongly encourages Congress to enact legislation, such as S.1079 and H.R. 4894, the Brownfield Site Redevelopment Assistance Act of 2001, which would establish a \$60 million brownfields redevelopment program at the Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration.

MUNICIPAL AND NATIONAL COMMITMENT TO REDUCE GREENHOUSE GASES

WHEREAS, the scientific community has reached a consensus that human activities are impacting the Earth's climate which has already warmed by a half to one full degree Fahrenheit during the 20th century with the potential of much greater warming in the 21st century; and

WHEREAS, global climate change is caused by emission of greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide from energy used by the business, transportation, and residential sectors, as well as methane from the decay of waste; and

WHEREAS, global climate change caused by greenhouse gases threaten the health and safety of our cities and communities; and

WHEREAS, while global climate change is a national and international issue, there are opportunities for local governments and others to reduce these negative consequences for cities; and

WHEREAS, global climate change, is linked to emerging infectious diseases, like West Nile virus, which place a growing burden on cities and communities to engage in measures to protect the health of residents; and

WHEREAS, global climate change is also associated with air pollution and elevated rates of respiratory problems such as asthma and lung cancer; and

WHEREAS, global climate change could also increase the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events that result in costly disasters such as flooding and severe drought; and

WHEREAS, recognizing that mayors are uniquely situated to lead national climate protection efforts by taking action in a broad range of areas; and

WHEREAS, more aggressive energy conservation efforts can save money and resources, and the promotion of cleaner energy technologies can stimulate local industries and provide jobs; and

WHEREAS, many mayors are already pursuing programs and policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in their cities and communities, including more than 125 local governments that have committed to assessing emissions, setting a specific reduction target for greenhouse gas emissions and monitoring progress,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on cities and communities to join the commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by adopting policies that encourage energy conservation and a reduction in municipal energy use, by adopting standards for energy efficiency in buildings and use of renewable energy resources, and by reducing fuel consumption through broader commitments to public transit and other alternatives to automobiles; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Conference recommends that the federal government continue its climate research to improve scientific understanding of global climate change and continue to assess the potential economic and environmental consequences of proposed policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Conference believes that state and federal government should provide new resources and incentives to local governments for the implementation of greenhouse gas reduction measures and for local energy and air pollution research to develop new, cost-effective approaches that minimize greenhouse gas emissions and engage in public-private partnerships that foster innovative technologies to combat global climate change.

WATERSHED NON-POINT SOURCE POLLUTION

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors adopted policies in 1997 and 1998 supporting comprehensive watershed management planning, including urban non-point sources and agricultural non-point sources; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors' 1998 Resolution also recognized that the impacts on ground waters and surface waters, and associated threats to drinking water supplies from urban, suburban, rural, agricultural and other activities needed to be addressed in an equitable manner with all water users and those who impact water quality or supply to be equally responsible and equally accountable for maintaining and improving the quality of the nations' waters; and

WHEREAS, the 1998 resolution also called for regulatory requirements for rural and agricultural non-point source control programs to be made consistent with management requirements for urban non-point sources such as municipal stormwater runoff; and

WHEREAS, the "Mayors' Action Plan for Sustainable Watershed Management" adopted in 1998 reported that agricultural non-point sources were identified as contributing to the impairment of 60 percent of the waterways not meeting water quality standards, whereas municipal point sources impacted only 17 percent of the waterways not meeting water quality standards; and

WHEREAS, the "Mayors' Action Plan" calls for local government to actively fulfill its role as a driving force in their respective watershed management planning efforts to ensure the protection and preservation of their common water resources, and it has proven to be more economical and effective to prevent a watershed from being polluted rather than to "treat" a polluted watershed; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports equitable regulatory policies for dealing with pollution within watersheds that assigns responsibility for pollution abatement or avoidance commensurate with pollution contribution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports the principle that watersheds which have not been endangered through pollution

should be protected and continually monitored to avoid the problems that are now faced in trying to recover polluted water resources; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Conference of Mayors supports that watersheds, which have suffered significant deterioration in their water quality, should be protected from further deterioration; and local government should play a key and lead role in establishing and implementing comprehensive watershed organics management strategies; and that such strategies include all non-point sources of organic materials that contribute to nutrient loadings that impact water resources; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Conference of Mayors urges the adoption of watershed management plans that call for the application of a broad range of technologies that can measurably reduce the annual tonnage of nutrients polluting water resources through uncontrolled releases and poorly managed organic wastes from cattle, poultry and swine farming land use activities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors calls upon Congress and the Administration to support organics management strategies employed in watersheds through federal financial assistance including: capitalization grants for technology, technical assistance programs, and educational programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Conference of Mayors urges local governments to strive to merge watershed management planning efforts with similar efforts undertaken by the state conservationists programs in order to direct resources in a coordinated fashion; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all such watershed organics management strategies should require the maximum amount of conversion of organic wastes into renewable “biomass” fuel that is economically practical for the local production and consumption of electricity; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that when choosing organics management strategies in watersheds that preference be given to approaches that achieve multiple public benefits that are measurable, such as reduction of diesel truck traffic, mitigation of fugitive dust, measurable reductions in greenhouse gas emissions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports innovative methods to solve water quality problems, be those methods voluntary or regulatory, but believes that regulatory methods must be triggered or imposed when voluntary methods do not achieve water quality objectives;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls upon the President and Congress, the various governors and state

legislatures, and federal and state regulatory authorities to aggressively take action to protect the nation's water supplies from further degradation due to non-point agricultural sources.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

GRANTING OF OBSERVER STATUS AT THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION TO THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA ON TAIWAN

WHEREAS, the Republic of China (ROC) on Taiwan is a vibrant democracy and the world's 16th largest economy with a population of 23 million people; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization (WHO) is the sole global organization that is dedicated to the "health of all;" and

WHEREAS, Taiwan has demonstrated a willingness to provide technical and financial assistance to international aid and health activities supported by WHO; and

WHEREAS, the world is in an age when the threat of bioterrorism is real and killer diseases can be transmitted around the globe in less than 24 hours; and

WHEREAS, the United States government has stated as policy before Congress: "Taiwan would be able to contribute and benefit from the work of the World Health Organization;" and

WHEREAS, President George W. Bush has written that the U.S. "Should find opportunities for Taiwan's voice to be heard in international organizations in order to make a contribution, even if membership is not possible;" and

WHEREAS, Taiwan's population is larger than 3/4 of the member states of the World Health Organization, and Taiwan has made superior medical advances that improve life expectancy and maternal and infant mortality rates to the most favorable levels in Asia,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, The United States Conference of Mayors supports the United States government policy that would grant observer status in the World Health Organization to the Republic of China on Taiwan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors urges WHO to act expeditiously on the request of Taiwan, so that its people may benefit from shared health information in the war against terrorism; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United States of America; the Honorable Colin Powell, Secretary of State; the Honorable Tommy Thompson, Secretary of Health and Human Services; the Honorable Harlem Brundtland, Director-General of the World Health Organization; and the appropriate representative of the Republic of China on Taiwan.

**OPPOSING THE LOCATION OF SO-CALLED
ONE-STOP INSPECTION FACILITIES
AT CROSS-BORDER BRIDGES IN U.S.-MEXICO,
US-CANADA CITIES AND OTHER PORTS-OF-ENTRY**

WHEREAS, international trade as a result of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) has resulted in Mexico becoming both the second largest importer of United States' goods, and second largest exporter of goods to the United States, making Mexico the United States' second largest trading partner after Canada; and

WHEREAS, trade with Mexico has become a critically important element of the economic growth of the United States, with U.S.-Mexico trade growing from \$100 billion in the first year of NAFTA to \$232 billion in 2001; and

WHEREAS U.S.-Mexico and U.S.-Canada trade, commerce and business development is an increasingly significant and important element of economic development in cities, large and small, throughout the country; and

WHEREAS, cities and ports-of-entry in the state of Texas handle 80 percent of all U.S.-Mexico trade with this trade increasing yearly; and

WHEREAS, each U.S.-Mexico and U.S.-Canada border city and port-of-entry has its own unique characteristics based on trade and traffic volume, land availability, geography, traffic patterns, transportation and other infrastructure, varying numbers of U.S. Customs, Immigration and Naturalization Service staff and other officers and inspectors; all of which impact and influence the location of such facilities; and

WHEREAS, for example, in the City of Laredo, Texas two commercial bridges, namely, the World Trade Bridge and the Colombia-Solidarity Bridge handle more than 40 percent of all overland trade between the United States and Mexico, and international bridges operated by other Texas cities and other border cities and ports-of-entry in other states are also critical to the secure and efficient movement of trade across the U.S.-Mexico border; and

WHEREAS, trucks waiting in congested traffic will have an adverse effect on the ability of the U.S. Customs Service to ensure and enforce security at our borders if garages for commercial vehicles are built at cross-border bridges; and

WHEREAS, the location of inspection stations at other points outside border commercial zones and the inspection of trucks therein will properly and adequately ensure the safety and security of the traveling public; and

WHEREAS in December 2001, Congress passed Public Law 107-87 known as the Department of Transportation and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2002, of which Section 350 specifies that "no funds limited or appropriated in this Act may be obligated or expended for the review or processing of an application by a Mexican motor carrier for authority to operate beyond United States municipalities and commercial zones on the United States-Mexico border until the Federal Motor Carrier Administration" performs the requisite vehicular inspections; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration proposes implementing this provision by placing inspection facilities directly on certain international bridges where they will increase traffic congestion, increase pollution, seriously delay cargo, trade and truck movement; and increase potential security risks for residents, workers and travelers alike; and

WHEREAS, this proposed placement is not necessary to implement the law and is contrary to the law's purpose of regulating trucks seeking authority to leave the border commercial zones for the interior of the United States, and is opposed by local officials; and

WHEREAS, placement of inspection facilities where they will create traffic congestion and freight and traveler movement delays is contrary to administration policies and programs being implemented by the U.S. Customs Service in cooperation with the nation's Big Three automakers and more than 50 other leading corporations that have agreed to implement security measures and controls for goods and equipment entering the United States in order to expedite processing through border checkpoints in order to combat terrorism and speed the flow of commerce; and

WHEREAS, such proposed action by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration overlooks the actual situation of border cities in relation to international commercial traffic between cities on both sides of the border; and

WHEREAS, in fact there is a practical and operating distinction between "drayage trucking", that is trucks crossing between border cities on a daily, frequent and recurring basis solely within city and border commercial zone limits, and "over the road" (OTR) trucks, driving from the Mexican hinterland

into Texas and other US-Mexico border states and further points inland in the United States. OTR or long haul drivers and manufacturers of the goods they transport will be adversely affected if trucks are forced to wait for inspections at cross-border bridges; and

WHEREAS, local law enforcement agencies have already operated to greatly improve and enhance the compliance levels and the quality of inspections of commercial vehicles and trucks operating within border commercial zones and will continue to do this job effectively and efficiently; and

WHEREAS, there is no statistical or historic evidence that shows that Mexico registered trucks have a greater propensity to be the cause of traffic accidents than other trucks inside commercial zones in border areas or beyond,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors goes on record as being opposed to the placement of vehicular inspection stations at international bridges and other border crossing points and ports-of-entry, where they will impede trade, create and further add to traffic congestion, reduce environmental quality, increase security risks and further reduce quality of life for residents of affected cities. Inspections performed as vehicles exit border commercial zones to the interior of the United States will insure the safety and security of the traveling public; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges the U.S. Department of Transportation to consider the views and concerns of Mayors of border cities on this subject, including their belief that vehicular inspection stations be located where vehicles exit border commercial zones rather than at international bridges, where trucks traveling to the interior of the nation can be inspected by federal or federally assigned inspectors, while "drayage trucks" which travel only within the city limits continue to operate solely within border commercial zones and are inspected only by local police, compliance and enforcement officers within city limits in accordance with existing localized systems, policies and cross-border arrangements; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors exhorts the U.S. Department of Transportation to seek a revision or modification of the policy of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration relating to the location of vehicular inspection stations for trucks traveling into the interior of the United States from Mexico, to accommodate the concerns herein expressed by the Mayors and particularly those Mayors of affected border cities upon whom innumerable businesses, cities and Mayors across the country rely and depend for the expeditious and secure movement of NAFTA-related goods and equipment.

CONDEMNING TERRORISM

WHEREAS, for more than two decades The U.S. Conference of Mayors in association with the American Jewish Congress has sponsored the annual Jerusalem International Conference of Mayors; and

WHEREAS, over the years U.S. mayors have observed with admiration and respect how the Mayor of Jerusalem has provided leadership and direction to his multi-faceted, ancient-modern city even amidst religious-ethnic turmoil and nationalist conflict; and

WHEREAS, U.S. mayors have learned of and appreciated the efforts of the Mayor of Jerusalem to serve his constituents (Israelis and Palestinians; Jews, Christians, and Muslims; veterans of five wars and recent arrivals from Ethiopia and the former Soviet Union) while facing challenges that under ordinary circumstances would sorely tax the ingenuity and resources of any municipality; and

WHEREAS, what is beyond reason and belief is the unspeakable burden imposed on the Mayor of Jerusalem, Ehud Olmert, and the citizens of Jerusalem by the mindless acts of terror which indiscriminately have killed and maimed scores of people innocently going about their everyday lives,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that U.S. mayors extend their sympathies and heartfelt support to the Mayor and people of Jerusalem, to the mayors and people of all of the cities and towns in Israel which have suffered similar attacks and to all of the victims of violence on both sides of the conflict; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that terrorism aimed at the deliberate killing of civilians, whether it strikes in Oklahoma City or New York or Jerusalem or Rishon Le-Zion is an abomination and cannot be rationalized or justified as the result of any situation or circumstance; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors condemns these acts of terrorism, calls upon the Palestinian leadership to act aggressively to prevent terrorism, and calls on both parties to return to the negotiation table as the way to resolve this tragic conflict.

RESOLVE SOFTWOOD LUMBER DISPUTE

WHEREAS, The United States Conference of Mayors has long been on record in support of free trade; and

WHEREAS, the 27.22 percent combined countervailing and anti-dumping duties imposed on softwood lumber imports to the United States, principally

from communities in Western Canada, threaten to undermine the strongest free trade relationship our nation enjoys anywhere in the world; and

WHEREAS, communities in British Columbia are resource-based and are suffering devastating job losses, curtailed investment and reduced mill production as a result of reduced sales of framing lumber to U.S. builders; and

WHEREAS, costs of lumber in the United States are expected to rise sharply as a result of these duties—at a time when the housing market is leading the economic recovery in the United States and housing production is just now beginning to relieve the shortage of affordable workplace housing in our metropolitan areas,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors urge the United States government to work quickly with Canada and/or the World Trade Organization to find a solution to the softwood lumber dispute with Canada, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution and the letter sent by the Union of British Columbia Mayors, dated June 6, 2002, be forwarded to the U.S. Trade Representative and to the U.S. Secretary of Commerce upon adoption.

JOBS, EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE

IN SUPPORT OF INCREASED FUNDING FOR THE LOCAL WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACT FUNDS

WHEREAS, the country is experiencing an economic slowdown with 1.96 million layoffs last year alone, according to the House of Representatives, which has resulted in a national unemployment rate of 6 percent; and

WHEREAS, the current budget proposes a \$655 million cut in funding for the workforce training programs at the U.S. Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration this year, including the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) formula funded programs for adults, youth and dislocated workers and the Youth Opportunity Grants program; and

WHEREAS, the proposed FY2003 cuts and those continuing in outlying years will seriously damage our nation's ability to provide workforce preparation and placement services to businesses, laid off workers, job seekers, veterans, dislocated workers, youth, individuals with disabilities, and others; and

WHEREAS, WIA and related workforce development services have played a critical role in the United States' unprecedented success reforming welfare and supporting former recipients' transition to work; and

WHEREAS, support for the U.S. Department of Labor would help our nation's job seekers secure employment, strengthen the competitiveness of American business, promote economic growth, and extend the benefits of a healthy economy to disadvantaged adults,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors requests that the Administration and Congress make a commitment to the locally driven workforce investment system to allow cities across the country to serve those who become unemployed as a result of the economic slowdown and also to continue to meet the demands needed for a 21st century workforce; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The Conference of Mayors calls upon Congress to increase the Administration's current proposed funding for the U.S. Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration's budget at no less than the FY 2001 appropriated levels and specifically to increase funding for WIA formula funded programs for adults, youth and dislocated workers, and the Youth Opportunity Grants program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference calls upon Congress to restore the dislocated worker formula grant rescission of \$110 million and to provide \$550 million for dislocated worker formula grants in the FY 02 Supplemental Appropriations bill.

**MAKING OPPORTUNITY FOR AMERICA'S YOUTH A
COMMITMENT TO OUR FUTURE AND INVESTING
IN YOUTH OPPORTUNITY GRANTS**

WHEREAS, our country's continued economic growth lies in the ability of America's young people to meet the current and future demands of business and industry; and

WHEREAS, the active engagement of all youth in acquiring academic competencies, work experience and marketable skills leads to increased success in their transition to the labor market and to the development of a strong and responsive national workforce; and

WHEREAS, research demonstrates a direct correlation between early participation in the work place and increased earning capacity leading to self sufficiency; and

WHEREAS, the lack of opportunities for young people to acquire the necessary work place and academic skills presents considerable threats to their economic future and to a prosperous and stable society; and

WHEREAS, in the most impoverished communities in the country there continues to be a disproportionate number of high school drop outs, 50 percent versus 10 percent for the rest of the country, and out of work minority youth between the ages of 16-24; and

WHEREAS, job losses of young adults between the ages of 16-24 account for more than half of the nation's recent total decline in employment and has affected every gender and race-ethnic group; and

WHEREAS, young African American youth have been most adversely affected by the recent deterioration in employment opportunities and the unemployment rate of young African American out-of-school males is over 25 percent below that of comparable white males; and

WHEREAS, these conditions severely hamper the prospects for regular employment and thwart the likelihood of these young people becoming productive citizens; and

WHEREAS, targeting long term youth development strategies to young people living in high poverty areas to assist them in completing high school diplomas and GEDs, acquiring and retaining employment and pursuing higher education will drastically reduce these barriers to economic and academic success; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Labor's Youth Opportunity Grants represent a major commitment to addressing these conditions and increasing the long term employability of youth living in the poorest communities in our country; and

WHEREAS, the philosophy of the Department of Labor's Youth Opportunity Grants is to promote outcome driven youth development activities pioneered by partnerships among communities, local government and businesses; and

WHEREAS, across the 36 communities selected for the first wave of Youth Opportunity Grants, over 40,000 young people are actively participating in a full complement of educational pursuits, career skills training, employment, leadership and community service projects and a significant number of previous high school drop out have already received academic credentials and are matriculating in college; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors has a strong commitment to the improvement of opportunities for all youth including disadvantaged and at-risk youth; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors has a strong commitment to promoting the economic stability of our communities and recognizes that given the full five years of funding, the Youth Opportunity Grants will have a tremendous economic impact on our poorest neighborhoods by increasing the chances for youth to get good jobs and move up career ladders; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors believes that the Youth Opportunity Grants differ from the Workforce Investment Act formula-funded youth programs by concentrating significant resources in specific high poverty areas, by leveraging measurable in-kind and cash contributions from the local and corporate communities and by avoiding the stigma of "poverty" on the participants through promoting and marketing services to all youth living in the targeted areas; and

WHEREAS, the President's Fiscal Year 03 Budget does not include funding to further the intent of the Department of Labor's Youth Opportunity Grants to strategically expand this youth development initiative to all poor communities in our nation,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls upon Congress to restore full funding of the Youth Opportunity Grants to the U.S. Department of Labor FY03 Budget in order to ensure the significant investment made in the initial efforts of the 36 communities will be realized and that new grants can be made to expand this effort to serve more youth in more communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that as youth development programs have documented significant improvements in interpersonal skills, quality of peer and adult relationships, self control, commitment to education and academic achievement, The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to incorporate the Youth Opportunity philosophy of long term, comprehensive support into all youth workforce policies and programs.

REAUTHORIZATION OF THE WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACT

WHEREAS, Congress must reauthorize the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) by September 30, 2003. Mayors recognize that this early beginning of the reauthorization discussion is simply that a beginning; and

WHEREAS, WIA created a national network of statewide, locally-driven workforce investment systems, led by local Workforce Investment Boards (WIBs) who have responsibility for system-wide coordination of resources and services; and

WHEREAS, Mayors are the drivers of this system and strong local authority and flexibility for Mayors and their local WIBs must remain at the core of WIA to ensure that the needs of local and regional employers are met; and

WHEREAS, WIA contains activities such as workforce preparation, delivery of training and education services leading to self-sufficiency, career planning, and life-long learning; and

WHEREAS, WIA recognizes that Mayors and chief local elected officials and their WIBs are responsible for creating a workforce system that responds to local labor markets, local employers and residents, and local economic development strategies; and

WHEREAS, over the past year Mayors have led a national initiative - the Mayors' Skills Summits - to call attention to regional labor market issues and the widening skills gap by bringing together Mayors and the private sector with local WIBs, educators, labor and community leaders and, despite vast differences in labor markets across the country, the same conclusion was reached at each Skills Summit – that there must be a major investment in basic and occupational skills; and

WHEREAS, local relationship building and innovation have made a difference, and are meeting the intent of Congress, breaking through barriers to integration and coordination that exist at the federal and state level, (see October 4, 2001 GAO report, *Workforce Investment Act: Better Guidance Needed to Address Concerns Over New Requirements*) and, some of greatest gains in coordination between programs has occurred at the local level, (see March 12, 2002 GAO report, *WIA Coordination Between*

TANF Programs and One-Stop Centers is Increasing, But Challenges Remain) and, state and federal barriers to local implementation have not been addressed; and

WHEREAS, business is very much engaged at the local level and Mayors are encouraged by the level of business leader participation in the local WIBs and are working with local Chambers of Commerce and other business organizations to ensure responsiveness to business; and

WHEREAS, it is clear that a business-oriented report card is needed to measure the system – one that business understands, not more performance standards; and

WHEREAS, while Mayors are committed to accountability, the United States Department of Labor's 17 performance measures do not capture what local workforce systems do (see February 1, 2002 GAO report, *Workforce Investment Act: Improvements Needed in Performance Measures to Provide a More Accurate Picture of WIA's Effectiveness*) and, no other federal program reporting is as complicated and focused on each individual as WIA; and

WHEREAS, while Congress created a universally accessible One-Stop system, the lack of funding to support the local One-Stop system has contributed to limited financial contributions and limited commitment of One-Stop partners; and

WHEREAS, because Congress required the Employment Service to be a partner in the locally-governed One-Stop system, the Employment Service must be accountable to the local WIBs; and

WHEREAS, WIA provides for informed customer choice, yet the mechanics of the Eligible Training Provider List (ETPL) have resulted in limited choice for customer

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that strong local authority and flexibility for Mayors and their WIBs must remain at the core of WIA to ensure that needs of local and regional employers are met; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in the regulations following reauthorization, wherever authority is not assigned explicitly to a particular party, the U.S. Department of Labor should reinforce Congress' intent that state and local levels negotiate as equal partners in the workforce development system; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Congress, the Administration, and the U.S. Department of Labor must recognize the findings of the Mayors' Skills Summits and provide adequate resources for training necessary to meet employers' needs and to attain and sustain economic recovery; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls for more resources and flexibility to address sectoral initiatives and incumbent worker training at the local level where both are essential to the local economy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on the Administration and Governors to remove state and federal barriers to local implementation of WIA; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that because the development of a new design for performance measurement is absolutely critical to assure successful outcomes for our customers, and for the credibility of the workforce system, The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls upon Congress and the U.S. Department of Labor to support the new performance measures developed jointly by The U.S. Conference of Mayors and other key WIA partners; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls upon Congress to approve the technical amendments in the reauthorization of WIA that were passed in the House of Representatives in the second session of the 106th Congress under H.R. 4216, which allows eligibility for the National School Lunch Program as a criterion for serving youth under WIA, provides greater flexibility to work with businesses using customized training and provides coordination between WIA funded training and unemployment compensation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls for universal access for core services to youth in WIA reauthorization and apply the lessons learned in the Youth Opportunity and Rewarding Youth Achievement grants. The current ten WIA youth elements should be connected in a youth development strategy that will lead to the critical outcome of transitioning youth into productive adulthood; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls for Congress to enable local WIBs to cover their current responsibilities under the Act by expanding their authority in the legislation to include all of the systems and programs that are part of WIA including the Employment Service; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Congress must fully fund the One-Stop system through the provisions of sufficient funds for all partners and ensure that all partners contribute financially so they will have a vested interest in the One-Stop system; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to provide clear accountability and performance measures for the Employment Service to ensure alignment with the goals of local WIBs and to ensure that the Employment Service provides outcomes for both job seekers and employers, and financial support to the local One-Stop system; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to revisit the Eligible Training Provider List (ETPL) because of its limited choice for customers and to allow local boards to waive the ETPL requirements when they do not provide adequate training providers as long as they assure informed customer choice; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls upon the U.S. Department of Labor to facilitate the sharing of local urban best practices by funding The U.S. Conference of Mayors to collect the most promising practices of local programs.

CALLING FOR NATIONAL INVESTMENT IN AMERICA'S YOUNG ADULTS

WHEREAS, according to the Johns Hopkins University Institute for Policy Studies June 2002 report, *The Young, the Restless and the Jobless: The Case for a National Jobs Stimulus Program Targeted on America's Young Adults*:

- ! Young people ages 16 to 24 have disproportionately borne the brunt of the economic recession over the past 15 months, suffering some 53 percent of the near 2 million employment losses overall, though they only comprise 15 percent of the labor force;
- ! During the economic boom in 2000 only one of five high school students living in poor families were able to obtain a job, and only one in six among Black and Hispanic high school students living in poor families;
- ! Only one-third of the nation's teenagers living in high poverty neighborhoods were able to obtain a job;
- ! Among young high school dropouts only 55 percent were working and that employment rate is 44 percent for poor high school dropouts;
- ! Each year an additional 800,000 to 900,000 youth will enter the young adult population; and

WHEREAS, while the national economic picture has improved modestly, it is highly unlikely that there will be any quick turnaround in the labor market situation for the nation's young adults, according to the March 2002 report *The National Economic Recession and Its Impacts on Employment Among the Nation's Young Adults (16-24 Years Old): the Untold Story of Rising Youth Joblessness* by the Center for Labor Market Studies at Northeastern University; and

WHEREAS, President Bush's efforts to boost the marriage rate will depend at least in part on the ability of young men to find jobs and given the characteristics of most mothers on welfare, policies to improve those employment prospects would need to focus on young minority men, particularly black men, according to the April 2002 Brookings report, *Left Behind in the Labor Market: Recent Employment Trends Among Young Black Men*; and

WHEREAS, according to the same report, only 52 percent of young, less educated black males are employed today, compared to 62 percent 20 years ago and the employment rate of young, less educated black males is much lower in cities than in suburbs, and the gap has widened over the last decade; and

WHEREAS, the recent passage of an extension of unemployment benefits will do very little for unemployed youth because most of them are ineligible for unemployment benefits; and

WHEREAS, young adults are completely ignored in the FY 2002 Supplemental Appropriations proposals; and

WHEREAS, President Bush's FY 2003 budget eliminates the Youth Opportunity Grant program including the Rewarding Youth Achievement Program – the only federal program providing comprehensive employment, education and youth development services targeted to low-income youth; and

WHEREAS, President Bush's FY 2003 budget significantly cuts the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) year-round youth program by \$127 million and eliminates the Responsible Reintegration for Young Offenders program; and

WHEREAS, summer youth employment activities, one of the activities in the WIA year-round youth program, have significantly declined except in local areas where additional resources, including Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funds, are available,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls for significant funding for a jobs stimulus program for young people ages 16 to 24, especially those living in high poverty neighborhoods and high school dropouts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that TANF reauthorization should explicitly list youth development activities such as summer youth employment, job training, education and enrichment to make it clear that such activities are an appropriate use of TANF funds. In addition, funds should be made available to local Workforce Investment Boards (WIBs) and their Youth Councils to be coordinated with WIA youth funds to support summer youth work experience programs, and year round youth programs which encourage school completion and occupational skill development, career awareness, and job and career advancement in conjunction with One-Stop centers.

MAINTAIN THE H-1B TECHNICAL SKILLS TRAINING GRANT PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the H-1B Technical Skills Training Grant Program was established in 1998 to address the shortage of skilled workers in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the H-1B Technical Skills Training Grant Program--and administered by the Department of Labor-- has offered thousands of Americans the opportunity to learn and master the skills necessary to acquire jobs that will provide upward mobility and long-term job retention; and

WHEREAS, by providing grants to local governments, workforce boards and other entities across the country, the H-1B program has enabled cities in urban and rural areas to meet the needs of their business communities by providing more highly skilled workers; and

WHEREAS, the Bush Administration has proposed eliminating it and redirecting the funds in the FY2003 budget; and

WHEREAS, eliminating the H-1B program will do away with an important job training program that strengthens America's own workforce, and lessens dependency on foreign workers,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Conference of Mayors opposes the Bush Administration's proposal to eliminate the H-1B Technical Skills Training Grant program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Conference of Mayors opposes rescinding funds from the H-1B program in the FY2002 Supplemental Appropriations bill in an effort to offset the cost of increasing other programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Conference of Mayors looks forward to the opportunity to work with the Bush Administration and Congress to make the necessary changes to strengthen the H-1B program.

SECOND PHASE OF WELFARE REFORM - MOVING FAMILIES UP THE CAREER LADDER TO SELF-SUFFICIENCY

WHEREAS, Congress is scheduled to reauthorize The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PRWORA) which provides block grants to states under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program, by September 30, 2002; and

WHEREAS, TANF reauthorization must: provide incentives to acquire skills, invest in youth, encourage strong programs to promote family responsibility for the non-custodial parent, support a system that encourages a single access point for families through the One-Stop system and fully fund supportive services essential to obtaining and retaining a job/career; and

WHEREAS, more needs to be done to support the TANF goal of improving the well-being of children; and

WHEREAS, early exposure to work experience and youth development activities has a proven powerful impact on future success in the workplace and is especially important to youth growing up in poverty and on public assistance; and

WHEREAS, the majority of those left on welfare are young including single mothers under age 24, are the hardest- to- serve concentrated in the nation's cities, and have multiple barriers to employment including no high school diploma or GED, non-English speaking, disorders such as substance abuse, mental illness, severe learning disabilities and little or no work history or skills; and

WHEREAS, while an increasingly disproportionate number of those remaining on welfare live in cities and has increased due to the declining economy, there is a need for bringing TANF resources closer to welfare recipients in cities and to design and deliver services best suited to the local area and the local economy; and

WHEREAS, many families leaving the rolls either remain unemployed or work only sporadically, and most who have jobs are still poor, while many families are going without the services and resources needed to transition from welfare to self-sufficiency; and

WHEREAS, most people working who have left the TANF rolls are in entry level, low-paying jobs making less than \$8/hr with an average yearly income of approximately \$13,000/year; and

WHEREAS, the probability of long-term success in the labor market is strongly related to the level of educational attainment and skill level of the worker; and

WHEREAS, the Welfare-to-Work program was created as necessary compliment to the TANF program to provide Mayors with a direct role in using highly targeted funds to move long-term recipients with multiple barriers into work and now in the second phase of welfare reform, the need for targeted funds is even more pronounced; and

WHEREAS, with the sunset of the Welfare-to-Work legislation, cities will be left without a significant block of funds for their established Welfare-to-Work infrastructure, while still faced with huge numbers of those still on welfare living in cities; and

WHEREAS, Mayors know that a mix of work, training, education and supports based on individual needs and the local labor market is the most effective way to move a person into self-sufficiency; and

WHEREAS, the local workforce investment system under the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) and the TANF system can leverage resources for their shared customers while adhering to their distinct roles to accomplish the common goal of a skilled workforce; and

WHEREAS, the current fragmented system has not met the needs of employers for a qualified workforce; and

WHEREAS, local elected officials and their local WIBS are in the best position to develop and deliver comprehensive local workforce strategies, including strategies to move TANF recipients into the workforce and provide retention and advancement services to meet the needs of the individuals and area businesses; and

WHEREAS, the workforce system has the infrastructure, business leadership and expertise in developing programs to meet skills training needs; and

WHEREAS, Mayors believe that locally run programs are the most effective in reaching the intended individuals, particularly programs that are effective in putting people into the workforce; and

WHEREAS, Mayors oppose the President's superwaiver provision in his welfare reform proposal and the House passed bill (HR 4737) which contain a proposal to grant sweeping authority to the Executive Branch to waive, at a governors' request, most provisions of law governing the operations of a range of low-income and other domestic programs including the Food Stamp program, child care, adult education programs, homelessness programs, public housing and job training; and

WHEREAS, Mayors are very concerned that states will have serious difficulty in meeting the President's proposed 70 percent participation rate by 2007 which is more than double the current national participation rate of 30 percent and that states may only be able to meet these requirements by creating workfare programs; and

WHEREAS, Mayors are very concerned that the President's proposal of a 40 hour work week with a mandatory 24 hours of work per week and a maximum of 3 months of training and education in every two years, will severely limit state and local flexibility which is central to TANF; and

WHEREAS, many workers who have been impacted by the events of September 11 and the current recession are workers that recently moved from the welfare system. Many workers are receiving a portion of some cash assistance, which is counting towards their five-year time limit,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls upon the nation's governors to recognize the differential impact that welfare reform efforts are having in cities and urges governors to reinvest TANF surplus dollars back into the TANF

system in order to focus on employment and training services for welfare recipients in cities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls for additional funding of at least \$1 billion similar to Welfare-to-Work to be directed to cities and local areas with large concentrations of people remaining on welfare using a formula reflecting the concentration of those remaining, the greater concentration of poverty, the higher cost of servicing welfare recipients with multiple barriers and the need for longer-term assistance; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that state and/or county plans must use TANF funds for employment, training and retention-related programs and must describe in their plans how they will function as a mandatory partner to the One-Stop system under WIA and provide funds which would flow through the WIA area to support such a system; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that local chief elected officials and their workforce boards should be given the capacity, flexibility and responsibility to develop workforce programs for their local area that address the employability needs of TANF recipients and the needs of employers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors strongly supports locally run programs for putting people into the workforce; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to exclude the superwaiver provision from the final welfare reform bill and to recognize that current waiver authority in WIA provides governors ample opportunity to work with local elected officials to enact waivers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that TANF reauthorization include education and training activities that address the removal of barriers to work including literacy, basic skills training, job readiness, substance abuse, mental health, addressing criminal records, count toward the work participation requirement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls for TANF reauthorization to maintain the current 50 percent participation rate and should include incentives for states to narrow the education and skills deficits identified in welfare recipients; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to include funding for a transitional jobs program in TANF reauthorization; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the workforce system and the TANF system leverage resources for shared customers— adults and youth - to provide them training to move them up the career ladder to self-sufficiency; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that TANF reauthorization should explicitly list youth development activities such as summer youth employment, job training, education and enrichment to make it clear that such activities are an appropriate use of TANF funds. In addition, funds should be made available to local WIBs and their Youth Councils to be coordinated with WIA youth funds to support summer youth work experience programs and year round youth programs which encourage school completion and occupational skill development, career awareness, and job and career advancement in conjunction with one-stop centers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that state TANF plans should identify funds to spend on education, training and employment activities for non-custodial parents, including assistance in debt repayment, and should fund national demonstration grants that support the development and enhancement of local models connecting the TANF, judicial, education and workforce systems; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that with the current unemployment rate at 6 percent nationally, and higher than that in many places in the country, especially cities, and the slow recovery of the current recession, Congress should provide national and/or state triggers, which would relax the five-year time limit and increase TANF grant levels during economic slowdowns so that work supports and other programs do not have to be dismantled to funnel more funds into cash assistance.

SUPPORTING HIGH QUALITY AFTER-SCHOOL AND OUT-OF-SCHOOL TIME PROGRAMS

WHEREAS, affordable, accessible, and high-quality after-school programming is essential for all families; and

WHEREAS, a public consensus is emerging about the need to share the responsibility for providing safe, interesting, and enriching programs for children during out-of-school hours; and

WHEREAS, ensuring access to high-quality after-school programming for school-age children and their families increasingly is becoming a priority at the local, state, and national levels; and

WHEREAS, after-school programming promotes learning, enhances the physical, social, emotional, and moral development of children and youth, and provides support for working families; and

WHEREAS, children's risk of becoming victims of a violent crime triples in the hours after school, and children and youth who are unsupervised are at greater risk of truancy,

pregnancy, receiving poor grades, experiencing mental depression, and abusing tobacco, drugs, and alcohol; and

WHEREAS, children who attend high quality after-school programs experience greater academic success, develop stronger peer relations, have better emotional adjustment and conflict resolution skills, and better conduct in school compared to their peers who are not in after-school programs,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors encourages the federal government to increase its investment in community-based after-school programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors requests funding for the 21st Century Community Learning Center program, which supports community efforts to expand out-of-school time programming, be increased to \$1.5 billion.

TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS

PUBLIC SAFETY SPECTRUM

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors recognizes that when public safety officials representing different disciplines and jurisdictions converge onto a single scene, they must be able to share information quickly; and

WHEREAS, local police departments, fire departments and emergency medical teams are usually the first responders to an emergency; and

WHEREAS, these first responders are under increasing pressures from both natural disasters and terrorist threats; and

WHEREAS, it has been recognized for years that first responders often do not have the tools to communicate effectively in an emergency, both to their colleagues inside their organization and to other departments and agencies; and

WHEREAS, this lack of interoperability between agencies can severely hinder public-safety officials in providing a coordinated response to critical incidents; and

WHEREAS, the 800 MHZ band is notorious for interference problems between public safety spectrum and commercial users; and

WHEREAS, the current 800 MHZ band is insufficient to meet increasing voice and data needs and will not meet future needs under projected population growth and demographic changes; and

WHEREAS, there is 24 MHZ of spectrum set aside for public safety use in the 700 MHZ band as part of television broadcasters' transition to digital television; and

WHEREAS, the replacement cost of the aging public safety wireless infrastructure is more than \$18 billion; and

WHEREAS, the cost of public safety radio infrastructure and equipment is a tremendous burden on local governments,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges that the 24 MHz of spectrum in the 700 MHz band be made available for local public safety uses as quickly as possible; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors requests that the federal government assists local governments with the tremendous cost of outfitting public safety agencies with communications hardware that facilitates interoperable communications between a variety of agencies.

DIGITAL OPPORTUNITY INVESTMENT TRUST

WHEREAS, our emerging knowledge-based economy makes access to technology and ongoing education a national imperative; and

WHEREAS, historically, federal investment in education, from the 19th century Land-Grant Colleges Act to the 20th Century GI Bill, and federal investment in research and development such as National Institute for Health and the National Science Foundation, have led to great societal and economic advances; and

WHEREAS, further, the United States has made an enormous (\$25 billion/year) investment in connecting classrooms to the Internet and bridging the "digital divide", thus increasing the percentage of classrooms in public K-12 schools connected to the Internet from 3 percent in 1994 to 77 percent in 2000; and

WHEREAS, the United States needs to invest in content and applications to leverage this increased access to hardware and networking infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, there have been a number of recent proposals to maximize the public benefits of new communications technologies such as the Internet, software, and broadband networks, for example, Lawrence Grossman and Newton Minow have proposed creating a Digital Opportunity Investment Trust, which would support innovative uses of digital technologies for education, lifelong learning, and the transformation of our civic and cultural institutions; and

WHEREAS, under their proposal, \$18 billion in revenue from upcoming spectrum auctions would be allocated to capitalize the trust fund; and

WHEREAS, the Trust would stimulate innovative ideas and models designed to enhance learning, broaden knowledge, encourage an informed citizenry, bring the contents of the

nation's libraries, museums, universities and schools into the digital age, and help these institutions teach the skills and disciplines needed in an information-based economy,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors endorses the concept of a Digital Opportunity Investment Trust, to be established by the aforementioned spectrum auctions, and urges Congress to move forward on legislation to implement this Trust; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors urges Congress to enact such safeguards as are necessary to see that a significant allocation of these funds benefit K-12 public school students as well as communities significantly impacted by the "digital divide".

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION CABLE MODEM DECLARATORY ORDER

WHEREAS, The United States Conference of Mayors is eager to facilitate the timely roll out of competitive broadband services to every constituent in their communities; and

WHEREAS, The United States Conference of Mayors have a long and distinguished history of working in partnership with the cable television industry to provide access, first to cable television, and today access to broadband Internet access via cable modem services; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Communications Commission on March 15, 2002 issued a declaratory order finding that cable modem service offered over a cable system is an "interstate information service"; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Communications Commission simultaneously issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking raising a series of questions about how this interstate information service should be treated for purpose of public rights-of-ways access and other interactions with local communities and cable modem subscribers; and

WHEREAS, The United States Conference of Mayors recognizes that cities want to make sure that every citizen has access to the Internet for communications and education and underscores that cable modem will be the primary Internet service in the future; and

WHEREAS, cities cannot ensure that all citizens have access to this technology unless the service is provided under the universal coverage requirement of a franchise contract; and

WHEREAS, failure to recognize that cable modem services are a "cable service" will jeopardize consumer protection for cable modem services; and

WHEREAS, as well as \$300 million in 2002 and billions of dollars of cable franchise fees in the years to come will be jeopardized; and

WHEREAS, the declaratory order comes at a time when local governments are being faced with tremendous additional costs in areas such as security following September 11th attacks; and

WHEREAS, local communities rely on this revenue to fund budgeted local projects such as street maintenance; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Communications Commission ruling robs local government of their rights to charge cable monopolies a fair rent for the use of public property; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Communications Commission is engaged in a proceeding to determine the implications of such a characterization on local government ability to manage access to rights-of-ways, charge cable franchise fees and provide consumer protection in the area of cable modem service; and

WHEREAS, The United States Conference of Mayors has joined with the National League of Cities, The National Association of Counties, The International Municipal Lawyers Association, and The National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors to form the Alliance of Local Officials Against Preemption (ALOAP) to pursue legal and regulatory actions at the Federal Communications Commission, before the Congress and in the Federal Courts,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors calls upon the Federal Communications Commission to amend its characterization of cable modem service to be a cable service, returning to local government the ability to protect consumers as well as forcing cable to pay the rent it had agreed to for access to rights-of-ways; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors calls upon the Congress to affirm the important and necessary role that Local Franchising Authorities must play in the orderly and efficient deployment of cable modem services.

RIGHTS-OF-WAYS

WHEREAS, local officials are eager to facilitate timely roll out of competitive broadband services in their communities; and

WHEREAS, public rights-of-ways are scarce and valuable real estate assets held by local government either in fee or in trust for the people of that community; and

WHEREAS, a recent study by TeleCommUnity estimated that the value of public rights-of-ways managed by local governments to be at least \$6 trillion and may be as much \$7.1 trillion; and

WHEREAS, the impact of granting access to the rights-of-ways has extensive impact on local communities, including the administrative costs associated with the granting of the franchise and or permits; the traffic delays and restricting of access to local businesses as well as the threat to property and people arising from a street opening; and

WHEREAS, every time a street is cut, regardless of new technologies and techniques, such street cuts dramatically reduces the lifetime of the street, necessitating additional capital expenditures by local taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, the cost for local taxpayers of allowing access to public rights-of-ways extends well beyond direct costs of the employees responsible for granting permits and inspecting construction; and

WHEREAS, as far back as 1823, the United States Supreme Court in *St. Louis v. Western Union Tel* recognized local governments' property interest in the rights-of-ways and the right to demand rent for access to same; and

WHEREAS, Congress in enacting Section 253 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 reaffirmed local governments right to collect reasonable rent for use of access to public rights-of-ways by telecommunications providers; and

WHEREAS, Congress had previously established in the Cable Act that it was reasonable to charge cable operators up to five percent (5%) of gross revenues for access to public rights-of-ways,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls upon the Federal Communications Commission, the Congress, as well as the telecommunications industry to respect local government's right to manage local infrastructure in an effective manner; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors underscores that local taxpayers not be required to subsidize the telecommunications industry by being denied the ability to recover the expenses associated with access to the rights-of-ways and a fair and reasonable rent.

UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO BROADBAND SERVICES

WHEREAS, high speed (broadband) Internet services are critical new productivity tools for education and business; and

WHEREAS, local officials recognize the critical nature of ensuring that all citizens have reasonable access to these technologies, regardless of their income; and

WHEREAS, the Universal Service Fund for Libraries and Schools (E-Rate) has been a significant factor in assisting schools and libraries to connect to the Internet; and

WHEREAS, the Technology Opportunities Program (TOP) has served communities across the nation by providing critically needed matching funds, allowing for innovative demonstration projects; and

WHEREAS, ensuring access to the tools of the future not be limited by geography, race or class,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors calls upon the Congress and Administration to continue and where appropriate increase the level of support available to:

- ! Universal Service Fund for Schools and Libraries, and
- ! Technological Opportunities Program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Universal Service Fund be expanded to include all advanced telecommunications services delivered via wire, including cable modem services.

ESTABLISHING HIGHWAY AND TRANSIT PROGRAM GOALS IN TEA-21 REAUTHORIZATION

WHEREAS, the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century, the largest, single public works investment in the nation's history, will expire in September, 2003; and

WHEREAS, over the six years of its authorization, this legislation provides spending of more than \$165 billion for core highway programs and more than \$36 billion for public transit systems to the state, regional and local agencies, including transit providers; and

WHEREAS, The United States Conference of Mayors is interested in the reauthorization of this important transportation infrastructure measure; and

WHEREAS, the more than 1,050 member cities of the U.S. Conference of Mayors are dedicated to growing this important program; maintaining the funding guarantees in TEA-21; and streamlining the delivery of the various TEA-21 programs; and

WHEREAS, it is vitally important to preserve a strong and expanding federal investment in the surface transportation system of our county; and

WHEREAS, it has been determined from local government experience with TEA-21 that retaining the basic principals of TEA-21, including a needs based transit program will benefit local communities; and

WHEREAS, it has been good public policy and in our best interest to guarantee that funds collected in the Highway and Transit Trust Funds are spent for those purposes and not diverted to other government programs, and it is critical to maintain the so-called “firewalls” provision of TEA-21; and

WHEREAS, it is important to our cities and our transit systems that the public transit program continue to grow to meet the expanding investment needs of our cities; and

WHEREAS, it is central to our cities and our transit systems that increased local control over TEA-21 funds be seriously considered in the new law; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors strongly urge the development of a seamless transportation system by connecting all modal elements to ensure the efficient movement of people and goods; and

WHEREAS, a recent Texas Transportation Institution study estimates the cost of congestion in just 68 urban areas has grown from \$21 billion in 1982 to \$78 billion in 1999; and

WHEREAS, the length of the congestion period increased from 2 to 3 hours in 1982, to 5 or 6 hours by 1999; and

WHEREAS, it is essential that our cities have the resources to combat increasing urban congestion; and

WHEREAS, the flexibility programs built into TEA-21 have proven to be highly beneficial to our city governments; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors recognizes increased investment is needed in the federal bridge program to address the issue of the substantial backlog of deficient bridges nationally; and

WHEREAS, greater targeting of these funds to bridges owned by local government should be required so that funds go where the problems of substandard bridges are the greatest; and

WHEREAS, to maintain a level playing field between highway and transit interests it is critical that the existing matching shares of 80% federal and 20% local as stated in TEA-21 be maintained; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors recognizes the importance of local government in protecting its citizens and the nation's surface transportation infrastructure urge Congress to establish a direct funding source to local governments in order to carry out these responsibilities,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls upon the Administration and the Congress to build upon the strengths of TEA-21 and provide even greater flexibility and funding for local governments in the reauthorization of the bill.

ESTABLISHING URBAN DESIGN STANDARDS FOR TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

WHEREAS, current transportation infrastructure standards on lane widths, bridge design, sound barriers, street lighting and other facets for construction and reconstruction do not take into account the fixed rights-of-ways; and existing infrastructure most often found in high density urban areas; and

WHEREAS, cities must request variances on a project by project basis if the project needs vary from current transportation infrastructure standards; and

WHEREAS, requesting variances results in delays in project design approvals which lead to higher costs,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls upon the U.S. Department of Transportation and Congress to establish a set of standards for urban areas which will reflect the unique situations found in cities and thereby facilitate design approvals.

SUPPORT FOR INCREASED AVIATION SECURITY

WHEREAS, it has been seven months since the passage of the Aviation and Transportation Security Act which symbolized a complete change in the way the nation approaches and conducts security for our nation's air transportation system; and

WHEREAS, above all, The U.S. Conference of Mayors wants to assure the flying public that we are committed to ensuring the safety and security of airports; and

WHEREAS, within 36 hours of the September 11th terrorists attacks, The U.S. Conference of Mayors issued a call for the full federalization of all airport security screening; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors adopted A National Action Plan for Safety and Security In America's Cities during the 70th Winter Meeting that increased aviation security by calling for:

- ! A fully federalized force at points of passenger, baggage and cargo inspections;
- ! Immediate funding to pay for increased airport security;
- ! Federal assistance and guarantees to ensure airport financial stability;
- ! Airline workforce protection and relief for affected businesses;
- ! Airside improvements;
- ! Imposed airspace restrictions and heightened security on all general aviation and charter flights throughout the U.S.;
- ! Resume full operations at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport
- ! Screening of 100 percent of checked luggage; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors wants to underscore our strong support for increased security requirements at our nation's airports; and

WHEREAS, passengers are accepting the new process and returning to airports with new confidence; and

WHEREAS, The Security Act set a series of tough deadlines that the Transportation Security Administration is attempting to meet; and

WHEREAS, more will have to be accomplished by the Transportation Security Administration and the nation's airports before the year end deadline; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors fully expects the Transportation Security Administration to have explosive detection systems in use at all commercial airports allowing it to screen every bag that goes on a passenger airplane by December 31, 2002; and

WHEREAS, under the aviation and security law, federal employees are to have replaced private security screeners at all 429 commercial airports by November 19, 2002,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors fully expects Congress and the Transportation Security Administration to provide both direction and the means that will allow all airports to accomplish the daunting task of meeting the statutory deadlines that are supported by the U.S. Conference of Mayors; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, airlines are points of increasing aviation cargo, all cargo on commercial aircraft should be 100 percent inspected for explosives.

AMTRAK

WHEREAS, the national Amtrak passenger rail system serves over 500 cities and communities across the country and provides safe, efficient and affordable mobility for millions of Americans each year; and

WHEREAS, ridership on Amtrak trains has increased 19% since 1996 and reached a total of 23.5 million riders in 2001 and demand for rail services continues to be strong on both corridor and long-distance trains; and

WHEREAS, the terrorist attacks of September 11th highlighted the value of Amtrak; and

WHEREAS, Amtrak ridership in the eight months since the attacks has remained strong despite a weak economy, significant reductions in travel and tourism and sharp declines in domestic air travel; and

WHEREAS, Amtrak provides clean, energy-efficient mobility, which can help, reduce the heavy U.S. dependence on imported oil; and

WHEREAS, travel by Amtrak uses 38% less energy(btu) per passenger mile than does travel by commercial airline; and

WHEREAS, state and local governments see the national Amtrak system as an essential way to assure future mobility for their regions but need the federal government to partner with them in making the rail investment (as the federal government does for highway, air and transit investments); and

WHEREAS, the U.S. government has significantly undercapitalized the national Amtrak system for decades, failed to provide passenger rail with a dedicated secure source of funding like other modes enjoy and require Amtrak alone to achieve operating self-sufficiency; and

WHEREAS, no comparable national passenger rail system in the world has succeeded without operating subsidies; certainly no system has ever succeeded without substantial public capital investment; and

WHEREAS, Amtrak has reached a critical juncture and will be forced to implement extensive service cuts nationwide unless federal funding is substantially increased above current levels; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Transportation Inspector General says Amtrak needs \$1 billion annually for capital alone; and

WHEREAS, Amtrak is experiencing an FY 2002 operating shortfall and has requested \$200 million loan by July, 2002; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls upon the Administration and the Congress to provide at least \$2 billion for Amtrak in FY 2003 to sustain our national intercity passenger rail system over the next year; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls upon the Administration and the Congress to provide at least an additional \$775 million to cover security upgrades and improvements; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls upon the Administration and the Congress to make a commitment to provide stable and adequate funding for the national Amtrak passenger rail network and infrastructure; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors opposes privatizing passenger rail as the Amtrak Reform Council has suggested; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this proposal is exactly the reason Amtrak was created in the first place.

RAILROAD WHISTLE BAN

WHEREAS, the sounding of locomotive horns or whistles at grade crossings has been a universal safety precaution since the late 1800s; and

WHEREAS, many urban communities have been working to silence the horns due to the detrimental affects the noise pollution has on the quality of life in their communities; and

WHEREAS, the link between increased railroad crossing safety and the sounding of train horns has not been proven; and

WHEREAS, numerous communities have adopted local whistle ban ordinances, which may, for example, ban locomotives from sounding their whistles at certain hours of the night or in certain areas of the community; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) has published a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that would implement a statutory requirement that locomotive horns sound at every public highway-rail grade crossing unless certain criteria are met; and

WHEREAS, the safe operation of some of the proposed upgrades, has been seen as controversial; and

WHEREAS, the proximity to active rail lines where whistles are blown severely restricts the availability of federal housing assistance from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD); and

WHEREAS, the proposed rule calls for certain safety upgrades at highway-rail grade crossing for cities to establish and maintain their existing whistle bans but provides no funding, thereby producing an unfunded mandate at a high cost to cities,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges the Federal Railroad Administration to move quickly on the implementation of a final rule that will recognize and meet the needs of urban areas where rail activity is frequent and on the rise and facilitate the process of implementing whistle bans; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges the Administration to include federal funding for any final rule that is issued by the Federal Railroad Administration in order to provide local governments with the financial resources necessary to upgrade their current safety measures at street-highway-rail grade crossings if such an upgrade is deemed necessary.

NATIONAL SEAPORT SECURITY

WHEREAS, U.S. port security is an integral part of homeland defense; and

WHEREAS, U.S. seaports play an important role in the movement of military forces; and

WHEREAS, U.S. seaports handled over \$737 billion in containerized cargo last year and the nation's 20 largest ports handle over 95 percent of U.S. international trade; and

WHEREAS, the volume of imported containerized cargo is expected to more than double by the year 2020; and

WHEREAS, U.S. seaports provide for the movement of commerce throughout the nation and the world and therefore are critical to the economy; and

WHEREAS, public seaports generate, both directly and indirectly, significant national economic benefits, including 13 million seaport related jobs, \$494 billion in personal income, \$5 trillion in business sales, \$743 billion to the nation's Gross Domestic Product, and \$199.5 billion in federal, state, and local tax revenues; and

WHEREAS, The United States maritime industry includes more than 100 public seaport authorities that are owned and operated by local government that manage and promote the continuous flow of waterborne international commerce; and

WHEREAS, the attacks of September 11th increased awareness of the importance of guarding America's seaports and the need for all ports to have a comprehensive security plans; and

WHEREAS, there is a consensus that protecting international seaport borders should be the responsibility of a partnership of federal, state, local governments, and private industry; and

WHEREAS, there is an immediate need to significantly upgrade the security and infrastructure of our nation's seaports to increase the scrutiny of port traffic and conduct more inspections without slowing the movement of commerce; and

WHEREAS, the Interagency Commission on Crime and Security as U.S. Seaports has estimated that costs for security improvements could range from as much as \$12 million to \$50 million per seaport; and

WHEREAS, while the \$93 million for Seaport Security Grants made available by Congress to the Maritime Administration will help public seaports meet their immediate needs to upgrade existing security infrastructure, public seaports need significant additional federal grant funds to continue their security upgrades,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls upon the Congress and the Administration to provide flexible federal funds to meet the unique local needs of major U.S. seaports in order to strengthen the security and anti-terrorism efforts of America's cities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports the creation of a federal grant program to enable ports to utilize new technologies and install security enhancements where their need and utility could be demonstrated; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports the implementation of the new Port Security Grants Program by the Transportation Security Administration to finance security enhancements at national seaports; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Conference encourages the federal government to enhance the communication among ports, local seaport security committees, labor and federal agencies such as the FBI, the U.S. Coast Guard, and the U.S. Customs Service in order for port cities to protect our nation's ports and waterways.

RAILROAD ACCESS

WHEREAS, when Amtrak was created through the Rail Passenger Service Act in 1971, it was granted guaranteed access to the freight railroad network to operate intercity rail; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of this guaranteed access for Amtrak was to maintain the dual use of the country's railroad network for both freight and passenger rail services; and

WHEREAS, although Amtrak still must negotiate with the private freight railroads on access-related issues, it has the ability to utilize the federal Surface Transportation Board (STB) to resolve these issues should an impasse be reached in its negotiations with the private freight railroads; and

WHEREAS, at that time, Congress did not anticipate the need for other public transit providers to access freight rail corridors to operate commuter rail service or to extend their light rail systems; and

WHEREAS, many public transit providers throughout the country are experiencing difficulties in negotiating the necessary agreements with the private freight railroads to access these corridors for passenger rail purposes, causing delays to completing passenger rail expansion projects and implementing new public transit services; and

WHEREAS, public transit providers currently do not have any leverage in their negotiations with the private freight railroads over access-related issues; and

WHEREAS, of the more than 200 New Starts projects authorized for funding in the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21), approximately half contemplate utilizing excess capacity in existing freight corridors; and

WHEREAS, organizations representing public transit interests have been attempting, with little success, to dialogue with the trade association representing the private freight railroads to establish a dispute resolution process within the STB for railroad access

issues, and to develop mechanisms to motivate the private freight railroads to come to the table to negotiate in good faith on these issues; and

WHEREAS, for the past two years, legislation has been introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives that would allow public transit operators to take disputes over rights-of-way and other operating issues with the private freight railroads to the STB for resolution; and

WHEREAS, providing commuter rail, light rail and other passenger rail operators with the same guaranteed access rights to the freight railroad network as Amtrak would: (a) provide them with much-needed leverage in their negotiations with the private freight railroads; (b) provide them with a mechanism to resolve issues in those situation in which an impasse is reached; and (c) prevent delays to passenger rail projects and services resulting from prolonged negotiations,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors, either through the reauthorization of TEA-21 or through separate legislation, supports granting to commuter rail, light rail and other public transit operators the same guaranteed access to the freight railroad network as Amtrak; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Conference supports establishing a mechanism within the STB or some other appropriate federal entity to resolve disputes between public transit operators and the private freight railroads on freight railroad access issues.

RAIL ISSUES

WHEREAS, America needs a balanced transportation system that provides alternatives for travelers; and

WHEREAS, passenger rail transportation provides an important means to help alleviate growing highway and airport congestion; and

WHEREAS, many state and local governments already see passenger rail service as an essential element necessary to assure future mobility for their citizens; and

WHEREAS, current federal funding levels for investment in rail passenger projects are inadequate to support the growing demand for improvement and expansion of rail passenger services; and

WHEREAS, increased federal funding is necessary to foster the growth of all modes of passenger rail and public transportation; and

WHEREAS, the federal government needs to work in partnership with state and local agencies to increase the country's investment in rail passenger services; and

WHEREAS, the federal government must, in the near term, provide sufficient funding to Amtrak to assure the continuation of our national passenger rail network; and

WHEREAS, many commuter rail operations rely upon Amtrak facilities and contract services, and such arrangements must continue without disruption; and

WHEREAS, the current Amtrak system is an essential network that supports the development and current operations of intercity rail, high-speed rail, commuter rail, and other passenger rail services; and

WHEREAS, any changes to Amtrak's institutional structure must protect the integrity of this network, as well as honor existing contracts, commitments and financial arrangements, including provisions of existing contract services to some commuter railroads,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls upon the Administration and Congress to support increased investment in the overall growth of passenger rail, which includes intercity rail, regional high-speed rail, commuter rail, heavy rail, light rail, and other passenger rail transit systems; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Conference urges Congress and the Administration to support investment in Amtrak, while at the same time, give full consideration to the impact that any legislation on Amtrak's institutional structure may have on commuter rail services and on public transportation services generally.

TEA-21 REAUTHORIZATION RESOLUTION: RAIL ISSUES

WHEREAS, America is confronting a myriad of challenges facing our transportation system; and

WHEREAS, demand for transportation services is increasing, and it is critical that we develop a strategy for new investments in our nation's physical infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, many areas in our country are experiencing congested roadways and railways, severe overcrowding of public transportation vehicles, and gridlock at airports; and

WHEREAS, adding to the capacity of our roadways, public transportation infrastructure, airports, railroads, and port facilities will be critical to our ability to sustain strong economic growth in future years; and

WHEREAS, the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21) has been successful in encouraging more efficient investment of federal transportation dollars, and in providing for greater transportation funding flexibility for meeting the diverse needs of states and localities; and

WHEREAS, TEA-21 also has strengthened the partnership among federal, state and local governments, and encouraged the development of multi-modal transportation systems; and

WHEREAS, TEA-21 has yielded unprecedented levels of funding for highways and transit by guaranteeing that transportation revenues actually are spent on transportation needs; and

WHEREAS, despite the successes of TEA-21, the current level of federal investment has not kept up with the steadily growing demand for transportation and for improved maintenance of existing transportation infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the basic programmatic framework of TEA-21, which consists of a core highway program, a core transit program, and flexible funding programs designed to allow localities to determine the transportation capital improvements that best meet their needs, should be preserved, though some minor changes to certain specific elements of TEA-21 may need to be considered; and

WHEREAS, the broadest definition possible of what constitutes “local match” for New Starts projects should be established and should include taking into consideration projects built locally without any New Starts dollars that are part of an integrated system; and

WHEREAS, while the existing transit matching shares should be maintained, those local communities that step forward with significant local and non-federal resources for their New Starts projects should be rewarded, in some manner, through the Federal Transit Administration’s (FTA) evaluation process for New Starts projects; and

WHEREAS, FTA’s New Starts evaluation process should provide recognition for communities that make a significant commitment to transit-oriented development and that practice smart-growth land-use planning principles; and

WHEREAS, Congress should consider reforms to the New Starts Program to ensure that appropriations are consistent with a project’s funding plan contained in its Full Funding Grant Agreement (FFGA) in order to avoid situations in which a project sponsor has to incur debt to cover federal funding shortfalls and has to seek appropriations after the project is completed and in revenue service; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls upon Congress and the Administration to provide long-term, sustained investment in the nation’s

transportation infrastructure that is adequate to meet the significant needs through the reauthorization of TEA-21,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Conference calls upon Congress and the Administration to retain the existing, needs-based transit program structure, and refrain from imposing a state cap on federal transit funding allocations or providing for a state-by-state minimum allocation for transit should be resisted; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Conference urges Congress and the Administration to establish the highest possible guaranteed spending levels for the federal transit title as a whole, as well for individual programs within the transit title, including for the Section 5307 Urbanized Area (UZA) Formula Program; the Section 5309 New Starts, Fixed Guideway Modernization and Bus/Bus Facilities Programs; and the Jobs Access/Reverse Commute Program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Conference urges Congress and the Administration to give consideration to improving certain aspects of the New Starts Program, particularly relating to local initiatives designed to enhance the effectiveness of their projects

SUPPORT FOR MAGLEV WITH THE REAUTHORIZATION OF TEA-21

WHEREAS, the mayors of the United States have forged effective working partnerships with states and metropolitan planning organizations to implement the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 and the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21); and

WHEREAS, mayors endorse the multimodal transportation approach embodied in ISTEA and TEA-21 to help solve urban congestion and air quality problems; and

WHEREAS, mayors strongly support the continued deployment of rapid transit programs including the use of high speed rail and other technologies such as magnetic levitation (maglev) to complement central city and suburban highway systems to improve the movement of residents within metropolitan areas; and

WHEREAS, Congress provided contract authority in TEA-21 for planning maglev systems and continues to provide funding through appropriations for continued planning and environmental studies for projects; and

WHEREAS, the Cities of Southern California Area Governments, Atlanta, Baltimore, Pittsburgh, New Orleans and Las Vegas endorse and are currently developing plans to build maglev systems,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports the authorization of a maglev program including contract authority in TEA-3 for innovative financing and grants for design, environmental studies, engineering and construction of maglev systems; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls for Congress to authorize a maglev program and the Administration to contract enough authority in the TEA-3 legislation to allow deployment of maglev systems in major metropolitan areas.

URBAN ECONOMIC POLICY

URGING FLEXIBILITY IN STATE AND LOCAL SALES TAX RATES IN STATE EFFORTS TO SIMPLIFY SALES AND USE TAX SYSTEMS FOR REMOTE SALES

WHEREAS, thirty three states are currently participating in an effort called the Streamlined Sales Tax Project to simplify state and local sales and use taxes to make them uniform and easy for all sellers, particularly out-of-state merchants, to collect and remit to state and local governments; and

WHEREAS, currently many out-of-state sellers do not collect state and local sales and use taxes because the Supreme Court has ruled in 1967 and again in 1992 that it would be overly burdensome and too costly to require sellers to know the different tax rates, and keep up with the changes in thousands of different state and local governments in which they do not have any physical presence; and

WHEREAS, according to a study released by the University of Tennessee in 2001, state and local governments will lose an estimated \$45.2 billion in annual revenues in 2006 and \$54.8 billion by 2011 due uncollected taxes on remote sales; and

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court's Bellas Hess and Quill decisions pre-date the Internet and much of the high tech in use today. In today's world technology has made it possible for companies like Amazon.Com to track a variety of details about its 28 million products and 25 million customers ; and

WHEREAS, this same technology can be used to facilitate the collection of sales and use taxes and the Streamlined Sales Tax Project is in the process of developing software (which will show tax rates based on a customer's zip code) and making it available to out-of-state merchants in order to make collection on remote sales simple and easy; and

WHEREAS, states involved in the Streamlined Sales Tax Project are planning to complete action on a uniform, simplification plan by the end of the summer of 2002. And after the plan is approved, each participating state will enter a multi-state agreement to implement the plan, and be expected to make the necessary changes in their sales and use tax laws to bring them in conformity with the terms of the multi-state agreement; and

WHEREAS, at a meeting in April 2002 in Dearborn, the Streamlined Sales Tax Implementing States voted to modify the terms of the proposed agreement to allow local governments to continue the practice of taxing some items that their states do not tax. An

earlier draft of the proposal threatened to eliminate this practice by limiting states and localities to a uniform tax base (taxable items), and by limiting each state to a single sales tax rate and each local government to a single sales tax rate; and

WHEREAS, many states currently exempt some items (such as food) from their sales tax but allow their local governments to tax them. The limitation in the earlier draft would have forced states to choose between two very unpopular choices—either increase taxes by applying the state’s sales tax to the exempt items or eliminate the local option tax, which provides a huge revenue source for some local governments; and

WHEREAS, under the compromise adopted last April, state and local governments will be limited to a uniform tax base, and each local government would be limited to a single sales tax rate while the state would be limited to a single general sales tax rate with the option of having one additional rate that could be zero. This will allow local governments to continue to tax some items that their states apply a zero tax rate; and

WHEREAS, representatives from some states who opposed the compromise plan are expected to offer amendments at the upcoming meetings of the Streamlined Sales Tax Implementing States to change the agreement back to the earlier draft language that poses a problem for local governments,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the Streamlined Sales Tax Implementing States to retain the language recommended by Illinois State Senator Steven Rauschenberger and adopted on April 13, which will allow local governments to continue to tax some items that the states apply a zero tax rate to.

SUPPORTING THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY

WHEREAS, the United States Bureau of the Census is developing the American Community Survey to produce more timely information about our nation’s people and communities, and to focus decennial census efforts on achieving a more accurate population count; and

WHEREAS, in 1996, the United States Bureau of the Census began testing the American Community Survey in response to bi-partisan requests from Congress after the 1990 Census to respond to the problem that decennial census data has diminishing utility during the decade between decennial censuses; and

WHEREAS, the American Community Survey, as part of the 2010 Census Re-engineering effort, is an alternative method of administering the long form component of the decennial census which will result in yearly data releases instead of the current releases once every ten years; and

WHEREAS, questions on the American Community Survey are essentially the same as those on the Census 2000 long form, which were required by federal laws, regulations, or court decisions; and

WHEREAS, the Bureau of the Census will make every effort to partner with state, local and tribal governments officials to educate the nation about the census and to keep American citizens and residents informed about the survey's uses, benefits and protections; and

WHEREAS, as the American Community Survey is a component of the decennial census, respondents will be protected by the same privacy and confidentiality protections afforded to all respondents of the traditional decennial census; and

WHEREAS, through the American Community Survey the Bureau of the Census will provide data to all levels of government to empower state, local and tribal elected, appointed and career officials to track the status of the communities they serve; and

WHEREAS, the American Community Survey has demonstrated its usefulness as a decision-making tool for mayors and administrators and legislators during its testing phase with a data release that demonstrated emerging regional trends in a timely manner; and

WHEREAS, in 2004 the American Community Survey will make long form socio-economic data available to places with populations larger than 65,000, and in 2008 all levels of geography will have long form socio-economic data available; and

WHEREAS, full funding is necessary in fiscal year 2003 to launch the survey nationwide, with an adequate sample size and effective outreach to historically hard-to-reach populations,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors hereby supports the American Community Survey and the Census Bureau's 2010 Re-engineering effort, and seeks continued partnership with the Census Bureau as the 2010 Re-engineering effort develops throughout the decade; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors urges Congress to fully fund the American Community Survey at the level requested by the Administration for fiscal year 2003, and make a long-term commitment to fund this effort at adequate levels in future fiscal years.

URGING THAT FOREIGN INVESTORS BE GIVEN NO GREATER RIGHTS THAN U.S. INVESTORS IN THE TRADE PROMOTION AUTHORITY ACT OF 2001

WHEREAS, the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate have approved separate legislative proposals, (Trade Promotion Authority Act of 2001) that would grant U.S. trade negotiators broad discretion to include so called “investor protection” provisions in future trade agreements with other countries; and

WHEREAS, the bills list among the principal negotiating objectives of the United States, “seeking to establish standards for expropriation and compensation for expropriation, consistent with United States legal principles and practices,” which is subject to broad interpretation and does not bind U.S. trade negotiators to follow U.S. legal precedents; and

WHEREAS, these provisions would expand the opportunities of foreign investors operating in the United States to challenge the action of federal, state and local governments as “regulatory takings,” particularly federal, state and local actions restricting the use of property to protect the environment, public health and safety, and public morals; and

WHEREAS, foreign investors would be given the exclusive right to circumvent the U.S. court system and the process in place at the state and local level for addressing takings claims. They would be permitted to sue the U.S. government for financial compensation based on federal, state or local actions before an international arbitration panel which would not be obligated to follow the U.S. Supreme Court’s interpretations of the Fifth Amendment on takings claims or to follow U.S. legal precedents in this area; and

WHEREAS, the investor protection provisions in the proposed legislation are modeled after Chapter 11 of the North American Free Trade Agreement, which allows foreign investors to sue for damages if any court or regulatory agency of the federal, state or local government takes an action that can be viewed as a trade barrier; and

WHEREAS, foreign investors have filed billions of dollars in takings claims under Chapter 11 of NAFTA, including a \$1 billion claim pending against the United States that was filed by Methanex Corporation of Canadian (which is the world’s largest producer of one of the key ingredients used to make MTBE) in response to the State of California’s decision to ban MTBE, a gasoline additive, in order to protect groundwater supplies; and

WHEREAS, the Senate attempted to address some of these concerns before passing its version of the bill by including language that specifically states that foreign investors will not be accorded greater rights than U.S. investors in the United States but it does not establish clear standards or an effective enforcement mechanism to ensure that this objective is carried out,

NOW, THEREFOR, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors urges House and Senate Conferees on the Trade Promotion Authority Act of 2001 to include language providing that decisions and other orders of the courts of the United States, including the U.S. Supreme Court and the highest courts of states, cannot be challenged before international arbitration panels as violations of investment provisions in trade agreements; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors urges that language also be included in the conference report that ensures that trade agreements that include investment provisions may be presented to Congress for ratification pursuant to this legislation only if the agreements provide that international arbitration panels shall not be empowered to accord foreign investors operating in the United States greater rights than U.S. citizens possess under the U.S. or State Constitutions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the President and Congress are urged to provide state and local sovereignty safeguards in the Free Trade Agreement of the Americas by establishing general exceptions to preserve core governmental functions that protect the environment, public health and safety, and the welfare of citizens; and by requiring international dispute resolutions panels to honor principles of deference to domestic legislative judgement.

PROMOTING INVESTMENT IN AMERICAN CITIES AS ENGINES OF AMERICA'S ECONOMIC GROWTH

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors and its Council for Investment in the New American City have shown, through its series of U.S. Metro Economy Reports, that U.S. metro areas accounted for over 86 percent, or more than \$3.6 trillion, of the growth of the American economy in the decade of the 1990s; and

WHEREAS, U.S. metro regions, comprised of America's cities, generate nearly 85 percent of the nation's employment, income, and production of goods and services, thereby demonstrating that they are the engines of the American economy; and

WHEREAS, the total economic output of the ten largest U.S. metro areas exceeds the total economic output of 31 states combined; and

WHEREAS, if U.S. metro areas were nations, 47 of the world's largest economies would be U.S. metro economies; and

WHEREAS, according to the 2000 U.S. Census, the 1990s was the best decade for cities in over 50 years, with many cities gaining in population and other stemming decades of population decline; and

WHEREAS, if the nation is to maintain a growing and dynamic economy, U.S. metro areas and their cities must continue to grow and maintain their global prominence as international economies; and

WHEREAS, to maintain the growth of U.S. metro economies, cities must continue to remove barriers to, and provide incentives for, continued and growing investment in American cities; and

WHEREAS, to ensure future, sustainable productivity growth within the American economy, the Federal government must assist cities in providing competitive, productive, and cost-efficient infrastructure, including transportation, environment and communications, that will improve the productivity of the American worker; and

WHEREAS, cities provide an opportunity for American and international business to invest and expand their markets in the urban communities; and

WHEREAS, along side business investors, the most important investors in American cities are families and individuals who choose to buy a home or start their own business within the city, and in order to position themselves as investors, residents must be financially literate and maintain good credit histories,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, The United States Conference of Mayors supports the continued development of its U.S. Metro Economy Reports, releasing annually a new national economic measure called “Gross Metropolitan Product” of the nation’s 319 metro areas; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors, through its Council for Investment in the New American City, encourages mayors, CEOs, business organizations, and urban non-profit groups to disseminate USCM’s metro economy reports, emphasizing their area’s gross metropolitan product, to promote regional economic cooperation in competing within the global economy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors and the Council for Investment in the New American City develop public/private coalitions to develop and promote federal, state and local incentives to attract further investment in environmental infrastructure, brownfields redevelopment, mixed-use commercial development, transit-oriented development, and increased homeownership in cities as part of a national investment strategy for the New American City; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors calls on its Council for Investment in the New American City to develop a national financial literacy campaign to encourage mayors to launch local initiatives to promote financial literacy within their communities, thereby empowering citizens to become individual investors and stakeholders in America’s cities through home ownership and start up businesses.

URGING SUPPORT FOR FULL VOTING RIGHTS, AND LEGISLATIVE AND BUDGET AUTONOMY FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

WHEREAS, the United States Conference of Mayors recognizes the constitutional right of all citizens to have full representation in the United States House of Representatives and the United States Senate; and

WHEREAS, the District of Columbia has almost 600,000 residents who continue to lack voting representation in the United States Congress while continuing to shoulder the full burdens and responsibilities of fully enfranchised citizens; and

WHEREAS, the disenfranchisement of the citizens of the Nation's Capitol is contrary to the spirit of liberty and democracy for all, and in violation of the values on which the United States was founded; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of the District of Columbia pay federal and local taxes, abide by the federal laws, serve in the military, but do not have a voting member of the United States Congress to represent their interests; and

WHEREAS, the District of Columbia elects a delegate to serve in the House of Representatives, the delegate does not have voting powers on the House floor, therefore the District residents have no real representation; and

WHEREAS, the Home Rule Act of 1973 recognizes self-government of the District of Columbia residents, separate from the federal government, its buildings and lands; and

WHEREAS, congressional mandate deprives the District of Columbia of full self-governance through Congressional oversight over it's local budget and legislation; and

WHEREAS, the "control period" under the District of Columbia Financial Responsibility & Management Assistance Authority officially ended on September 30, 2001 giving financial control back to the District of Columbia's elected government leadership; and

WHEREAS, the District of Columbia has met and exceeded the financial targets set by Congress by achieving five consecutive balanced budgets, maintaining the financial reserve requirements and earning an investment grade bond rating on Wall Street,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U. S. Conference of Mayors recognizes and fully supports full voting representation and budget and legislative autonomy for the District of Columbia.