

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT THE
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STRATEGIES TO ADDRESS THE HIV/AIDS EPIDEMIC

WHEREAS, AIDS cases have been reported in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. dependencies, possessions, and associated nations; and

WHEREAS, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that more than one million three hundred thousand people are living with HIV/AIDS in the US today; and

WHEREAS, ten states account for more than 70 percent of the cumulative AIDS cases reported in the US since the beginning of the AIDS epidemic; and

WHEREAS, AIDS cases have been concentrated primarily in large US metropolitan areas and the top ten metropolitan areas account for more than 52 percent of the cumulative AIDS cases; and

WHEREAS, approximately 250,000 of the infections are undiagnosed, meaning that many infected people are unaware of the HIV serostatus; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that approximately one half of all new HIV infections come from HIV positive persons who do not know their status; and

WHEREAS, the HIV/AIDS epidemic continues to have a disproportionate impact on diverse populations and communities; and

WHEREAS, racial and ethnic minorities have been disproportionately affected by HIV/AIDS since the beginning of the epidemic and represented the majority of new AIDS cases (70%), people living with AIDS (64%) and AIDS deaths (72%) in 2006; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has made recommendations to encourage routine screening for HIV, removal of barriers to expand HIV testing and to allow for flexibility in the requirement(s) for pre-test counseling, thereby making HIV testing more accessible and facilitating utilization of new HIV screening technologies including rapid HIV tests; and

WHEREAS, advances in HIV/AIDS treatment have substantially reduced AIDS-related morbidity and mortality; and

WHEREAS, a variety of federally and state-supported prevention and care services are provided by state and local health departments, community and faith-based organizations; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the US Conference of Mayors commits to working with their member Mayors to address the HIV epidemic within their respective jurisdictions by raising awareness about HIV; by encouraging people to: become aware of their HIV status; seek on-going medical care and services if they are HIV positive; participate in HIV prevention education services if HIV negative; and routinize screening for HIV in all medical and community healthcare settings; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors encourages all Mayors to utilize all resources to end the epidemic of HIV/AIDS in their respective jurisdictions.

SUPPORT FOR CRADLE TO PRISON PIPELINE INITIATIVE

WHEREAS, tens of thousands of youth are funneled down life paths that lead to arrest, conviction, incarceration and even death; and

WHEREAS, a Black boy born in 2001 has a 1 in 3 chance of going to prison in his lifetime; a Latino boy a 1 in 6 chance; and a White boy a 1 in 17 chance. A Black girl born in 2001 has a 1 in 17 chance of going to prison in her lifetime; a Latino girl a 1 in 45 chance; and a White girl a 1 in 111 chance; and

WHEREAS, poverty, exacerbated by race, is the largest driving force behind the *Cradle to Prison Pipeline* crisis, with almost 13 million, or 1 in 6 children in America living in poverty, almost half of whom (5.5 million) live in extreme poverty; and

WHEREAS, 1 in 4 Latino children and 1 in 3 Black children are poor; and

WHEREAS, the number of uninsured children from birth through age 18 rose to 9.4 million in 2006; and

WHEREAS, Latino children are three times and Black children are almost twice as likely to be uninsured as White children; and

WHEREAS, the importance of the early years is dramatically underscored in a U.S. Department of Education study which found that Black and Hispanic children were substantially behind when they entered kindergarten; and

WHEREAS, 86 percent of Black, 83 percent of Latino and 58 percent of White 4th graders cannot read at grade level; and

WHEREAS, 89 percent of Black, 85 percent of Latino and 59 percent of White 8th graders cannot do grade level math; and

WHEREAS, only 48,000 Black males earn a bachelor's degree each year, but an estimated 1 in 3 Black men ages 20-29 is under correctional supervision or control; and

WHEREAS, one-size-fits-all zero tolerance school discipline policies are transforming schools into a major point of entry into the juvenile justice system as children are increasingly arrested on school grounds for subjectively and loosely defined behaviors; and

WHEREAS, a child is abused or neglected every 36 seconds but four in ten of the children who are confirmed abused or neglected get no help at all; and

WHEREAS, although they comprise only 16 percent of all children, Black children represent 32 percent of the foster care population; and

WHEREAS, a Congressional study found 15,000 children in juvenile detention facilities, some as young as 7 years old, solely because community mental health services were unavailable; and

WHEREAS, children who age out of foster care are less likely to graduate from high school or college, and experience more serious mental health problems, including post-traumatic stress disorder, than children generally and they are less likely to receive adequate health and mental health care, and are more likely to experience homelessness, and to be involved in the criminal justice system; and

WHEREAS, alcohol and other substance abuse treatment for youth and for parents and adults is in too short supply; and

WHEREAS, Black youth are about four times as likely as their White peers to be incarcerated; and

WHEREAS, most juvenile correctional facility programs focus on punishment rather than treatment and rehabilitation, often creating environments that further harden youth and makes it more difficult for them to productively reintegrate into their communities; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Conference of Mayors is committed to fighting for policies that put children on track to a productive adulthood and against the criminalization of children at younger and younger ages and urge the President of the United States and Congress to; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Conference of Mayors is committed to ending poverty through investments in high quality education for every child, livable wages for families, income supplements like the Earned Income and Child Tax Credits, job training and job creation, and work supports like child care and health coverage; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Conference of Mayors is committed to ensuring every child and pregnant woman has access to affordable, seamless, comprehensive health and mental health coverage and services; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Conference of Mayors is committed to making early childhood development programs accessible to every child by ensuring such programs are affordable, available and of high quality; and

BE IT RUTHER RESOLVED, that the Conference of Mayors is committed to helping each child reach his/her full potential and succeed in work and life by ensuring our schools have adequate resources to provide high quality education to every child; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Conference of Mayors is committed to expanding prevention and specialized treatment services for children and their parents, connect children to caring permanent families, improve the quality of the child welfare workforce and increase accountability for results for children; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Conference of Mayors is committed to reducing detention and incarceration by increasing investment in prevention and early intervention strategies, such as access to quality early childhood development and education services and to the health and mental health care children need for healthy development.

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE UNITED STATES NATIONAL HEALTH
INSURANCE ACT (H.R. 676)**

WHEREAS, every person deserves access to affordable quality health care; and

WHEREAS, the number of Americans without health insurance now exceeds 47 million; and

WHEREAS, millions with insurance have coverage so inadequate that a major illness would lead to financial ruin, and medical illness and bills contribute to one-half of all bankruptcies; and

WHEREAS, proposals for "consumer directed health care" would worsen this situation by penalizing the sick, discouraging prevention and saddling many working families with huge medical bills; and

WHEREAS, managed care and other market-based reforms have failed to contain health care costs, which now threaten the international competitiveness of U.S. manufacturers; and

WHEREAS, administrative waste stemming from our reliance on private insurers consumes one-third of private health spending while the single payer Medicare system has administrative costs of less than 5%; and

WHEREAS, U.S. hospitals spend 24.3% of their budgets on billing and administration while hospitals under Canada's single payer system spend only 12.9%; and

WHEREAS, Harvard researchers estimate that more than \$300 billion could be recovered by replacing private insurance companies with a single public payer, enough to cover the *uninsured and to improve coverage for all those who now have only partial coverage*; and

WHEREAS, entrusting care to profit-oriented firms diverts billions of dollars to outrageous incomes for CEOs and threatens the quality of care; and

WHEREAS, The United States National Health Insurance Act (H.R. 676) would assure universal coverage of all medically necessary services, contain costs by slashing bureaucracy, protect the

doctor patient relationship, assure patients a completely free choice of doctors, and allow physicians a free choice of practice settings; and

WHEREAS, most polls show that the majority of Americans support universal healthcare; and

WHEREAS, as of the date of this resolution, the majority of American physicians (59%) believe that Single Payer is the best method of securing universal healthcare; and

WHEREAS, The United States National Health Insurance Act (H.R. 676) will guarantee every mayor that all residents and employees of his/her city will be fully covered for healthcare and save millions of taxpayer dollars now spent on premiums to provide less than full health insurance coverage for government employees; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the United States Conference of Mayors expresses its support for The United States National Health Insurance Act (H.R. 676), and calls upon federal legislators to work towards its immediate enactment, and further urges the adoption of a process by which healthcare will be required to justify any increases to healthcare costs.

**ENSURING BICYCLING IS INTEGRATED INTO NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION,
CLIMATE, ENERGY AND HEALTH POLICY INITIATIVES**

WHEREAS, bicycling can provide multiple and cross-cutting benefits in U.S policy initiatives that seek to address transportation needs, limit climate change and energy consumption and improve public health; and

WHEREAS, we now live in a nation with 300 million people, and that number is expected to grow to 365 million by 2030 and to 420 million by 2050 with the vast majority of that growth occurring in congested urban areas where there are significant limitations on accommodating increased motor vehicle travel; and

WHEREAS, since 1980, the number of miles Americans drive has grown three times faster than the U.S. population; and

WHEREAS, a national transportation system that invests in and is conducive to bicycling reduces traffic congestion in our most heavily congested urban areas while promoting an overall improved quality of life that is valuable for the Nation; As example: More than 200 cities throughout the U.S., representing more than 35 million people have committed to implementing bicycle friendly action plans to make their communities more bicycle friendly; and

WHEREAS, the greatest potential for increased bicycle usage is in our major urban areas where 40 percent of trips are two miles or less and 28 percent are less than one mile; and

WHEREAS, surveys show that a majority of people want to ride more but are dissuaded by concern over traffic danger and other barriers, and case studies have shown that when those barriers to bicycling are removed, people start riding; and

WHEREAS, a national network of interconnected urban and rural bikeways can provide valuable community benefits, including low or no-cost recreation and alternative transportation options for people of all ages and abilities; and

WHEREAS, the transportation sector contributes one-third of the greenhouse gas emissions in the United States and passenger automobiles and light trucks alone contribute 21 percent; and

WHEREAS, Ten percent of global oil production goes solely toward fueling America's cars and trucks and the U.S. could save 462 millions of gallons of gasoline a year by increasing cycling from one percent to one and a half percent of all trips; and

WHEREAS, bicycle commuters annually save on average \$1,825 in auto-related costs, reduce their carbon emissions by 128 pounds, conserve 145 gallons of gasoline, and avoid 50 hours of gridlock traffic; and

WHEREAS, over 800 of our Nation's Mayors have signed onto the Climate Protection Agreement of the United States Conference of Mayors urging the Federal Government to enact policies and programs to meet or exceed a greenhouse gas emission reduction target of a seven percent reduction from 1990 levels by 2012; and

WHEREAS, two years ago the Conference of Mayors unanimously endorsed the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, whereby a key component is to implement climate-friendly land-use policies and invest in public transportation and bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the Center for Disease Control estimates that if all physically inactive Americans became active, we would save \$77 billion in annual medical costs; and

WHEREAS, the United States is challenged by an obesity epidemic in which 65 percent of U.S. adults are either overweight or obese, and 13 percent of children and adolescents are overweight, due in large part to a lack of regular activity; and

WHEREAS, the percentage of U.S. children who walk or bike to school has dropped by 70 percent since 1969 such that only 15 percent of students were walking or biking to school in 2001 while the rate of childhood obesity has tripled in recent years; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors believes that achieving increased levels of bicycling is in the national interest; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors encourages the development and implementation of a coordinated national bicycling strategy aimed to increase safe bicycle use as a mode of transportation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors encourages the development of federal transportation, environmental and public health policies that recognize increased and safe bicycle usage for transportation is in the national interest and that we further urge Congress in the next federal transportation reauthorization to establish policies and funding mechanisms that will aim to Reduce the number of motor vehicle miles traveled (VMT); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors encourages improving safety conditions for bicyclists and Collect transportation and safety data needed to monitor progress; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors encourages providing incentives for state and local governments to adopt and implement Complete Street policies designed to accommodate all users; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that even absent federal incentives, Governors and state-level leadership should embrace Complete Streets policies that acknowledge the contributions of bicycles as a means to reduce vehicle miles by integrating bicycle use into standard street design; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on all Mayors that sign onto the Climate Protection Agreement to develop and implement action plans to incorporate bicycling programs and policies as a key component in reducing greenhouse gas emissions 80 percent by 2050; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors encourages every mayor to strive to make their city a Bicycle Friendly Community.

**URGING SUPPORT FOR THE REAUTHORIZATION OF THE INDIAN HEALTH CARE
IMPROVEMENT ACT (HR 1328)**

WHEREAS, all people should enjoy the highest possible standard of physical and mental health as a fundamental human right; and

WHEREAS, it is unacceptable that, at this time, American Indians and Alaska Natives experience diabetes, alcoholism, mental health conditions, cancer, hypertension, arthritis, heart disease and other conditions at rates higher than the general population of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the United States government has a trust responsibility to provide health care to American Indians and Alaska Natives and the Indian Health Service (IHS) is the federal agency charged with the responsibility of delivering such health services; and

WHEREAS, the federal Indian Health Care Improvement Act P.L. 94-437), enacted by Congress in 1976, along with the Snyder Act of 1921, provides the programmatic and legal framework for administering the health services provided to American Indians and Alaska Natives; and

WHEREAS, the Indian Health Care Improvement Act expired in 2000 and has not yet been reauthorized despite years of diligent efforts by tribal leaders and advocates around the United States; and

WHEREAS, over the last several Congressional sessions, the National Steering Committee for the Reauthorization of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act has worked closely with the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs Staff, House Resources Committee Staff, and House Legislative Counsel to refine the Indian Health Care Improvement Act bill language; and

WHEREAS, two bills to reauthorize the Indian Health Care Improvement Act - H.R. 1328, sponsored by Rep. Frank Pallone, Jr., and S. 1200, sponsored by Senator Byron Dorgan have been passed with significant support; and

WHEREAS, the proposed reauthorization bill will modernize and improve the healthcare of American Indians and Alaska Natives by:

- Establishing objectives for addressing health disparities;
- Establishing programs for the delivery of Indian health care services;
- Authorizing the construction and maintenance of health care and sanitation facilities in American Indian and Alaska Native communities;
- Modernizing and improving Indian health care services and delivery;
- Addressing the behavioral and mental health and well-being of American Indian and Alaska Native communities by establishing behavioral health programs in alcohol and substance abuse, social services and mental health;
- Establishing a continuum of care through integrated behavioral health programs—both prevention and treatment—to address alcohol/substance abuse problems and the social service and mental health needs of American Indian and Alaska Native people;
- Enhancing the ability of IHS and tribal health programs to attract and retain qualified Indian health care professionals;
- Allowing for in-home care for the American Indian and Alaska Native elderly population;
- Facilitating greater decision-making regarding program operations and priorities at the local tribal level in order to improve services to tribal populations.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the United States House of Representatives is strongly urged to pass and fully fund HB 1328, and President George W. Bush to sign into law, the reauthorization of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act in the 110th Congress; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all actions necessary and appropriate to secure the actions requested in his resolution are taken, including but not limited to working collaboratively with the all Federally-Recognized Indian Pueblos, Tribes, Nations and Alaska Natives.

**OPPOSING MEDICAID REGULATIONS RESTRICTING MEDICAID PAYMENTS TO
STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS**

WHEREAS, the Administration has issued regulations restricting and in some instances eliminating Medicaid payments for Public Providers, Graduate Medical Education, School Nurses and services for Individuals with Disabilities; and

WHEREAS, these rules go way too far and will end up hurting patients and the very system that serves them by making drastic cuts in critical safety net funding; and

WHEREAS, these rules would eliminate sources of revenue for safety net providers and, after decades of supporting graduate medical education through the Medicaid program, would eliminate such support even when residents are treating Medicaid-eligible patients; and

WHEREAS, the Medicaid program must continue to participate in physician training because we need more not less physicians in both urban and rural areas in the future; and

WHEREAS, these rules would eliminate a long-standing policy of Medicaid reimbursement for administrative activities and transportation for school-based health services traditionally provided by school nurses; and

WHEREAS, these rules would eliminate Medicaid support rehabilitative services, which are entwined with rehabilitative services for individuals with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, these rules would eliminate Medicaid reimbursement for certain targeted case management services that benefit low-income recipients; and

WHEREAS, health care is a critical issue facing many Americans and we must enhance access to good health care, including preventive health care, not diminish it; and

WHEREAS, rules have been estimated to cost in excess of \$20 billion over 5 years to State and local governments at a time when the economy is already straining city budgets; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the United States Conference of Mayors opposes the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

rules placing severe restrictions on the ability of state and local governments to finance the Medicaid program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States Conference of Mayors supports moratoria on regulations and calls for the Administration to rescind such regulations.

IN SUPPORT OF FUNDING OBESITY PREVENTION

WHEREAS, between the 1970s and 2000, obesity has become a national public health epidemic; and

WHEREAS, nearly one-third of all American adults are obese and 65% are either overweight or obese, and at least 16% of children 6-19 years of age are considered overweight in the United States; and

WHEREAS, obesity has significant impacts on health and social welfare, leading to disease, disability and death as well as lost productivity and increased health care expenditures; and

WHEREAS, in 2004, the total medical cost of obesity was estimated to be \$75 billion; and

WHEREAS, between 1947 and 1997, calorically-sweetened beverage consumption increased 500%; and

WHEREAS, substantial scientific evidence, including epidemiologic and experimental studies, supports a causal relationship between the consumption of calorically-sweetened beverages and obesity and overweight; and

WHEREAS, controlled trials of removing calorically-sweetened beverages from the diet results in weight loss; and

WHEREAS, one key way to address the health and economic impacts caused by obesity and overweight is by focusing attention on calorically-sweetened beverages and other heavily marketed food and beverage items that contribute to obesity; and

WHEREAS, these revenues from the sales of these items could fund important public health prevention programs that reduced obesity and/or mitigate the negative impacts, including school food marketing initiatives, citywide nutrition and physical activity media campaigns, or other childhood and adult nutrition and physical activity programs; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the US Conference of Mayors supports increased resources for cities to help combat obesity and fund obesity prevention, including consideration of revenues from the major leading contributors of the nation's obesity

epidemic, including calorically sweetened beverages, fast food and high calorie snacks.

**OPPOSING THE CENTERS FOR MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES DIRECTIVE
LIMITING EXPANSION OF THE CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, the number of uninsured children increased by 611,000 to 8.7 million from 2005 to 2006; and

WHEREAS, children without coverage are more likely to end up in emergency rooms when conditions could have been addressed sooner at the primary care level; and

WHEREAS, uninsured children get less medically necessary care, and are more likely to have unmet needs for care; and

WHEREAS, the State's Children Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) provides coverage to children in low-income families whose income exceeds Medicaid income eligibility limits; and

WHEREAS, every state has an SCHIP program, and SCHIP has not only been successful in covering newly eligible children but also in triggering major improvements in Medicaid that allowed millions of uninsured children who had been eligible for Medicaid but not enrolled to gain coverage and access to care; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Government Accountability Office and the Congressional Research Service have issued legal opinions stating that the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) August 17, 2007 letter to state officials is a rule and must be submitted to Congress and the Comptroller General before it can take effect; and

WHEREAS, CMS has inappropriately limited states' abilities to expand SCHIP to families above 250 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL) based on its August 2007 letter to state officials; and

WHEREAS, during the current environment of economic uncertainty the imposition of new requirements limiting access to SCHIP for children in families losing private coverage could adversely affect working families' access to needed healthcare; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the U.S Conference of Mayors opposes the CMS August 2007 letter and its May 7, 2008 clarifying letter to states that limit states' abilities to expand coverage for children; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors supports moratoria on these CMS letters and calls for the Administration to rescind such directives and permit states flexibility to expand public coverage to higher income families as deemed necessary and appropriate by each state.

PROVIDING UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE, QUALITY HEALTH CARE

WHEREAS, the number of people without health insurance coverage increased by 2.2 million to 46.9 million - 15.8 percent of the population - between 2005 and 2006; and

WHEREAS, the percentage of people covered by employment-based health insurance declined slightly - from 60.2 percent to 59.7 percent - between 2005 and 2006, and the percentage of people covered by government health insurance also declined slightly - from 27.3 percent to 27 percent - during the same period; and

WHEREAS, the number of uninsured children increased by 611,000 to 8.7 million from 2005 to 2006; and

WHEREAS, this year nearly one out of four non-elderly Americans—61.6 million—is in a family that will spend more than 10 percent of its pre-tax income on health care costs, and 17.8 million Americans are in families that will spend more than 25 percent of their pre-tax income on health care costs; and

WHEREAS, the number of uninsured people and people with inadequate coverage grow, cities are on the frontlines of the crisis coping with its economic impact on city services, including increased demand for mental health and substance abuse services and increased demand for other safety net services for families; and

WHEREAS, if one breadwinner in a middle class family has significant medical bills due to lack of health insurance, that family is at high risk of slipping into poverty, thus making many middle class families one accident or illness away from a catastrophe; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the US Conference of Mayors calls on the next President and Congress to repair the nation's health care system to provide affordable, quality health care for all Americans.

HEALTH DISPARITIES

WHEREAS, racial and ethnic health disparities are a major preventable public health problem in cities across the nation; and

WHEREAS, many major national and local studies such as those analyzed in the Institute of Medicine's 2002 Report "Unequal Treatment: Confronting Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Healthcare," have documented "differences in incidence, prevalence, mortality and burden of disease and other adverse health conditions," as disparities is defined by the National Institutes of Health; and

WHEREAS, these racial and ethnic health inequities are caused by many social factors, including discrimination, poverty, inequitable access to resources essential to health such as education, healthy housing, healthy environments and culturally competent health care; and

WHEREAS, cities such as Boston, Minneapolis and others have taken the initiative to eliminate disparities through model collaborative, cross-sector approaches that bring together a group of leaders from health, business, government, and community; and

WHEREAS, local government also relies on a sustained partnership with the federal government to succeed in creating health equity; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors requests continued and expanded national support for federal programs that explicitly tackle this major social problem, such as REACH 2010, Healthy Start, and Title VII Health Professions programs such as Health Education Centers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States Conference of Mayors urges that race and ethnicity health data across federal and state programs be collected and standardized and that reports be published annually which examine differences in health outcomes and health status by race and ethnicity.

YOUTH VIOLENCE AS A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS

WHEREAS, youth violence is the second leading cause of death nationwide for young people between the ages of 10 and 24; and

WHEREAS, the likelihood of recurrence of street violence for a victim is estimated at up to 44%; and

WHEREAS, 5,570 young people age 10-24 were murdered - an average of 16 each day - in 2003; and

WHEREAS, over 780,000 violence-related injuries in young people age 10 to 24 were treated in U.S. emergency rooms in 2004; and

WHEREAS, the plague of violence can result in a multitude of physical and psychological health problems, as well as tremendous economic costs to both the victim and society; and

WHEREAS, many young people seek medical care for violence-related injuries, some of which can lead to lasting disabilities; and

WHEREAS, violence can undo the social fabric of communities by increasing the cost of health care, decreasing property value, and disrupting social services. The cost of youth violence exceeds \$158 billion each year; and

WHEREAS, research is proving that youth violence is a preventable disease; and

WHEREAS, violence is a learned behavior that can be unlearned by systematically shifting social norms and community expectations of violence; and

WHEREAS, promising interventions in some cities have shown that public health models can be successfully applied to community violence and result in dramatic decreases in violent injury and death; and

WHEREAS, successful models for youth violence intervention have included public education, community coalitions, street outreach, and partnerships with law enforcement informed by the voices of youth and the parents of crime victims; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors (USCM) urges the federal government, states and cities to recognize youth violence as a public health epidemic that

requires a sustained multi-faceted approach focused on prevention; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors encourages cities to work with a broad range of stakeholders to establish programs that protect the safety of all victims of violence), seeking medical care in emergency rooms, community health centers, homeless shelters and other sites; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges cities to partner with health care institutions to train health care providers in community health centers and acute care hospitals to establish protocols and effectively identify, respond and treat all victims of violence; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges the federal government include as a covered benefit under all federal health insurance programs, reimbursement for case management, mental health, and health education services for all victims of violence; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges the federal government support investments in youth development in US cities, with an emphasis on reaching disconnected and hard to reach youth with quality programming.

URGING POLICIES TO END NATION'S CHILDHOOD HUNGER CRISIS

WHEREAS, 35 million Americans, including 12.6 million children are food insecure; and

WHEREAS, food insecurity exists in 10% or more American households and above average rates of food insecurity (and risk of hunger) occur among households in America's major cities; and

WHEREAS, one in five Americans use at least one of USDA's food and nutrition assistance programs during the year, including 13.4 million children who receive food stamp benefits and 11.5 million households who participate in the free or reduced-price school lunch program; and

WHEREAS, hunger impairs our children's health in significant and long-lasting ways, including impeding growth and development, increased illness, poorer mental health, more hospitalization, and greater susceptibility to obesity and its harmful health consequences; and

WHEREAS, hunger impedes children's ability to learn and perform academically and increases their susceptibility to physical and mental illness; and

WHEREAS, our nation's youth are our future and we need to act now to address this urgent crisis; and

WHEREAS, the Food and Energy Security Act of 2007 includes vital food security, food bank and childhood nutrition provisions that will help address our nation's childhood hunger crisis; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress and the Administration to provide increased resources to help families access economic security programs, including food stamps, Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), and improve access for children to healthy, affordable food in shelters, food banks and pantries, schools and neighborhoods.

FULL FUNDING & EXPANSION OF THE STEPS TO A HEALTHIER US PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has found that poor nutrition, inactivity and tobacco use has led to widespread, severe health problems such as obesity, heart disease, diabetes, asthma and other chronic diseases; and

WHEREAS, the CDC has found that these chronic health issues are especially acute in low-income and minority populations; and

WHEREAS, to address these issues the CDC implemented the Steps to a Healthier US program; and

WHEREAS, the Steps to a Healthier US Program has provided grants to 40 communities to implement chronic disease prevention and health promotion activities to address obesity, diabetes, and asthma, as well as related risk behaviors such as physical inactivity, poor nutrition, and tobacco use; and

WHEREAS, Steps to Healthier US communities promote improved health by creating a groundswell of activity in local communities, through schools, worksites, health care settings, and other community institutions, to support healthier lifestyles and prevent chronic diseases; and

WHEREAS, Steps to Healthier US communities have implemented programs that reach beyond public health and bring together a wide range of disciplines, such as business, transportation, and city planning that are evidence-based and have been successful in changing people's behaviors to help improve the health of communities; and

WHEREAS, communities participating in Steps to a Healthier US form partnerships with private, public and non-profit partners, including schools, businesses, work sites, and health care facilities to extend the reach of their programs and to accelerate progress toward a healthier community; and

WHEREAS, the CDC has implemented a rigorous evaluation regime for the Steps to a Healthier US program that tracks results based on core performance measures; and

WHEREAS, the CDC has used data from this evaluation process to improve the program and improve overall public health efforts; and

WHEREAS, communities participating in the Steps to a Healthier US have seen dramatic improvements in public health, including reduced obesity rates, declines in risky lifestyles and behaviors and increases in healthy lifestyles and behaviors; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the US Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to fully fund the Steps to a Healthier US Program so that participating communities can build on their success to date; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the US Conference of Mayors calls on Congress and the Administration to expand the Steps to a Healthier US Program so that additional communities can receive the health benefits of this innovative program.

ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORDS

WHEREAS, Americans expect health care services to be high quality, safe and of high value; and

WHEREAS, the Institute of Medicine has endorsed the implementation of health information technology including electronic medical records and the use of electronic prescribing in order to increase the quality of health care delivery and to prevent medication errors; and

WHEREAS, the implementation of health information technology will support the Institute of Medicine's vision for a transformed health care system that is safe, effective, patient centered, timely, efficient and equitable; and

WHEREAS, there are a growing number of physicians' offices, hospitals, laboratories, pharmacies and other health care providers across the nation that have already taken steps to adopt electronic medical record systems; and

WHEREAS, through public-private partnerships, many states have begun to build the initial infrastructure for systems that will facilitate the secure electronic health information exchange across health care providers; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the US Conference of Mayors (USCM) hereby affirms the need to transition from a paper-based medical system to an electronic -records system; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the US Conference of Mayors hereby endorses health care providers' ongoing effort to implement and utilize to maximum capability electronic health records for their patients, including all appropriate electronic health information exchange systems that will improve the quality, safety and value of health care delivery by facilitating the secure, confidential and appropriate flow of health care information between health care providers and consumer access to their own health information; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the USCM hereby endorses efforts by non-providers to support the ongoing work to implement and utilize to maximum capability electronic health records, including all appropriate electronic health information exchange systems that will improve the quality, safety and value of

health care delivery by facilitating the secure, confidential and appropriate flow of health care information between health care providers, and consumer access to their own health information; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the USCM hereby recognizes that health care consumers should expect that their health care providers will use electronic health records and information systems that:

- Protect the confidentiality of health care information in accordance with the providers' professional obligations to their patients and the provisions of state and federal laws; (2) Provide the consumer with access to their healthcare information;
- Provide appropriate security measures to protect electronic information against illicit access;
- Interface with statewide electronic health information exchanges that facilitates the sharing of health information for coordination and continuity of care;
- Improve health care providers' ability to apply the best available scientific evidence in the provision of health care services;
- Reduce waste and duplication of health care services; and (7) Improve the safety of health care by ensuring that electronic orders for laboratory tests, medication and other services are created and transmitted electronically whenever possible; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the USCM hereby supports the goal that all health care consumers will be served by providers that have adopted electronic health records systems by January 1, 2015.

INCREASING ACCESS TO QUALITY PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS

WHEREAS, 20 percent of children entering kindergarten lack the social and emotional skills necessary for classroom learning; and

WHEREAS, less than half of children in poverty attend preschool at ages 3 and 4; and

WHEREAS, children of families with modest incomes, slightly below the average, participate less in preschool education than families in poverty; and

WHEREAS, only 30.5 percent of Hispanic 3 year olds attend center-based preschool education programs and 45.8 percent of non-Hispanic children; and

WHEREAS, almost 80 percent of total brain development occurs before the age of five; and

WHEREAS, children attending high quality preschool programs are engaged in early literacy development training; and

WHEREAS, students who have attended quality preschool programming have less grade retention and increased high school graduation rates when compared to those who have not attended; and

WHEREAS, students having attended preschool programs are less likely to smoke and are more likely to make better personal health decisions; and

WHEREAS, young adults who participated in quality early childhood education programs were arrested less often, had fewer births out of wedlock, and were less likely to use welfare than their peers who did not participate; and

WHEREAS, high quality preschool programs lead to decreased crime and delinquency rates,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors urges federal, state, and local governments to invest in expanding access to quality preschool education; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Conference of Mayors believes that the extent of preschool education's impact depends on both quality resources for students and the professional development of teachers, paraprofessionals and staff in early education centers.

SAVING LIVES, SAVING MONEY: CITY-COORDINATED DRUG OVERDOSE PREVENTION

WHEREAS, drug overdose is the second leading cause of injury death in the United States, behind only motor vehicle accidents and ahead of firearms[1]; and

WHEREAS, overdose mortality rates have increased significantly since the 1990s[2]; and

WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), illegal and prescription drug overdoses killed more than 33,000 people in 2005, the last year for which firm data are available[3]; and

WHEREAS, overdose deaths are more commonly attributable to heroin and narcotic analgesics (opiates derived from opium, and opioids, their synthetic derivatives) than any other drug category[4]; and

WHEREAS, death from opioid overdose is preventable through use of naloxone, an opiate antagonist medication that reverses the respiratory depression that causes death from overdose[5]; and

WHEREAS, many overdose fatalities occur because peers delay or forego calling 911 for fear of arrest or police involvement, which researchers continually identify as the most significant barrier to the ideal first response of calling emergency services[6]; and

WHEREAS, the United States Conference of Mayors adopted a resolution at its 75th Annual Meeting calling for "A New Bottom Line in Reducing the Harms of Drug Abuse," which specifically states that the prevention of overdose fatalities should be a primary goal of national and state drug policy and encourages cities to adopt local overdose prevention strategies; and

WHEREAS, a recent and ongoing outbreak in fatal and nonfatal overdoses due to heroin contaminated with clandestinely manufactured fentanyl has killed over 1,000 people in at least eight states[7], including nearly 200 in Chicago, 150 in Detroit, nearly 100 in Philadelphia, and nearly 75 in Camden, New Jersey, since April of 2006[8]; and

WHEREAS, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime warned world health authorities to prepare for a sharp rise in rates

of heroin overdose mortality due to a dramatic increase in the global supply and purity of heroin[9]; and

WHEREAS, naloxone is effective, affordable and safe, does not have serious side effects other than those associated with opioid withdrawal, works within minutes, is not addictive, cannot be abused, and has no psycho-pharmacological effects[10]; and

WHEREAS, naloxone is currently administered by paramedics and emergency room personnel to treat opioid overdose but could prevent far more deaths through widespread distribution to police and first responders; and

WHEREAS, distributing naloxone directly to community members, as opposed to restricting it to medical personnel, saves lives, as people frequently use in pairs or groups and there is often someone nearby to detect the signs of an overdose in time and administer emergency treatment[11]; and

WHEREAS, trained participants of naloxone distribution programs are able to recognize and respond to opioid overdoses as effectively as medical experts[12]; and

WHEREAS, naloxone can be safely administered by lay people intravenously, intramuscularly, and intranasally[13]; and

WHEREAS, numerous programs that provide overdose prevention education, rescue breathing training and take-home naloxone directly to lay people have been developed in New Mexico, Connecticut, Northern California, and the cities of Baltimore, New York City, Chicago, Philadelphia and most recently Los Angeles; and

WHEREAS, naloxone distribution programs save cities money by averting significant health care costs. Nationally, poisonings resulted in \$2.24 billion worth of direct medical costs in the year 2000, corresponding to \$23.7 billion in lost productivity.[14] Los Angeles County, which approved a pilot naloxone distribution program in September 2006, admitted 232 patients for opioid overdose treatment in the county-run hospitals from 1997 to 2002, at a cost of \$3.7 million[15]; and

WHEREAS, naloxone distribution programs are inexpensive: Material costs are minimal (naloxone-filled syringes cost less than two dollars apiece) and naloxone distribution programs have been added to existing services, such as syringe exchanges, without the need for increased staff or space; and

WHEREAS, naloxone distribution programs have resulted in reversals of respiratory depression leading to saved lives: Data on 16 organizations in the United States that distribute take-home naloxone show that 20,950 people have been trained to administer naloxone, and 2,642 overdoses were successfully reversed[16]; and

WHEREAS, in New Mexico, approximately 200 people have said that they have saved a life with naloxone,[17] and New Mexico officials report up to a 20 percent drop in overdoses since they started distributing the drug.[18] In San Francisco, more than 150 people who were trained to administer naloxone stated that they saved someone with the drug[19]; and

WHEREAS, the Baltimore City Health Department has documented over 114 overdose reversals with naloxone as of June 2006[20], and the City's overdose death rate is now at a 10-year low[21]. In Chicago, at least 465 people have reported peer overdose reversals[22], halting and reversing a consistent trend of increasing overdose deaths the very same year the city instituted its naloxone distribution program[23] (during which time expanded access to treatment for opioid dependence was also provided); and

WHEREAS, participants in programs report that education about and availability of naloxone has helped connect users to safety and personal health information and resources[24], and that the frequency of heroin use decreased among opioid users in a pilot study of naloxone distribution;[25] and

WHEREAS, establishing emergency "Good Samaritan" limited immunity policies that protect from prosecution people who call 911 would increase timely medical attention to overdose victims[26]; and

WHEREAS, nearly one hundred colleges and universities have adopted Good Samaritan policies that have proven effective in encouraging students to seek help in the event of an alcohol or other drug overdose; in 2006, researchers found that Cornell University's Good Samaritan policy led twice as many students to call 911 in a drug or alcohol emergency, while substance use remained constant[27]; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico recently enacted the first such law in the country—the 911 Good Samaritan Act of 2007—which is expected to save countless lives in cities across the state[28]; and

WHEREAS, similar life-saving legislation is pending in several states across the country, including California,

Illinois, Maryland, New York, New Jersey, Rhode Island and Washington;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the United States Conference of Mayors encourages cities to implement life-saving, cost-effective overdose prevention programs that provide overdose prevention education, rescue breathing training and take-home naloxone directly to lay people; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the United States Conference of Mayors supports establishing emergency "Good Samaritan" policies that provide immunity from prosecution:

For individuals at the scene of a health emergency related to the acute toxic effects of controlled substance use, intoxication, withdrawal or addiction, who have contacted 911 in good faith to receive emergency medical treatment for a victim of drug toxicity or overdose; and

For individuals who have experienced an accidental or intentional drug overdose and who have been rendered aid by public safety personnel responding to a 911 call placed in good faith requesting emergency medical treatment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the United States Conference of Mayors calls upon:

The National Institute of Drug Abuse and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to urgently fund research to evaluate scientifically the effectiveness of overdose prevention interventions and develop model programs; and

The Food and Drug Administration to take all necessary and reasonable steps to facilitate the testing and approval of nasal and/or over-the-counter formulations of naloxone and to consider recommending prescription naloxone concurrent with prescribing strong opioid analgesics.

INCREASING ACCESS TO QUALITY AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS

WHEREAS, after-school tutoring increases the academic achievement of students on state standardized tests; and

WHEREAS, after-school programs provide extracurricular activities that expose students to arts, culture, sports, leadership development, and career exploration opportunities; and

WHEREAS, after-school programs provide constructive activities, supervision, and safety for students outside of school hours; and

WHEREAS, after-school programs participation leads to increased school attendance and graduation rates among students; and

WHEREAS, after-school programs promote personal skills and social development of students,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors calls for federal, state and local levels of government to support cities and their districts in building and investing in quality after-school programming by:

- Creating grant opportunities for building city-wide after school initiatives to encourage access to all K-12 students;
- Providing support and incentives for professional development training for staff and paraprofessionals; and
- Encouraging the development of evaluations to gauge the impact of after-school programs and to identify additional needs, necessary enhancements, and supports

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Conference of Mayors encourages collaboration among government agencies, non-profit organizations and the business community to develop after-school programming.

THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG)

WHEREAS, the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program was signed into law by President Gerald Ford as the centerpiece of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974; and

WHEREAS, CDBG is the Federal government's efforts to help more than 1,100 entitlement cities, urban counties, States and their non-profit partners meet the needs of low and moderate-income communities; and

WHEREAS, CDBG helps to fund a wide range of activities, including homeownership assistance, housing rehabilitation, public governments, public services, and economic development projects; and

WHEREAS, according to HUD, over 95 percent of FY07 CDBG funding went to activities principally benefiting low and moderate-income persons; and

WHEREAS, CDBG housing projects assisted 151,107 households in FY07, including financial assistance to new homeowners and rehabilitation assistance to the elderly and other existing homeowners; and

WHEREAS, the CDBG helped create and retain 42,231 jobs in FY07 and provided vital public services to over 24 million persons; and

WHEREAS, the impact of past cuts have had a negative impact and proposed cuts will exacerbate the problem for communities that rely on CDBG funding to serve their most vulnerable residents, principally low and moderate-income persons; and

WHEREAS, the CDBG formula allocation was funded at \$4.41 billion in FY01; and

WHEREAS, the formula allocation has decreased by \$820 million - or approximately 18 percent - with a five percent cut in FY05, 10 percent cut in FY06, and a three percent cut in FY08; and

WHEREAS, the FY09 HUD budget would reduce the formula funding by \$659 million (18 percent), cutting the formula allocation by almost 37 percent in just five years; and

WHEREAS, the cuts to the formula allocation, programs and projects funded by CDBG, and the number of residents served by these activities, have also been cut; and

WHEREAS, in these hard economic times, CDBG can help state and local governments to assist the community development needs of some of the nation's most vulnerable communities and citizens,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to support the nation's communities and low and moderate-income citizens by funding CDBG with at least \$4.1 billion in formula funds in FY 2009; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors also strongly supports that formula funding for the CDBG program be doubled to at least \$8 billion over the next several years.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST FUND

WHEREAS, it has been eighteen years since the federal government last enacted a major affordable housing production program; and

WHEREAS, the shortage of affordable rental housing for people with limited income continues to be one of our most significant urban challenges, with housing costs outstripping wages for more households than ever before; and

WHEREAS, in October 2007, the House of Representatives, led by Chairman Barney Frank of the House Financial Services Committee, passed The National Affordable Housing Trust Fund Act of 2007, the largest expansion in federal housing programs in decades, with a goal of producing, rehabilitating and preserving 1.5 million housing units over the next 10 years, allocating up to \$1 billion annually directly to states and local communities, with funding derived from a portion of the profits of Government Sponsored Enterprises such as Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac; and

WHEREAS, the Fund resources would be eligible for activities such as construction, rehabilitation, acquisition, preservation incentives and operating assistance to facilitate affordability, among others; and

WHEREAS, 60 per cent of funding monies will go to participating local jurisdictions and 40% to states, Indian Tribes and insular areas; and

WHEREAS, Senators John Kerry and 19 co-sponsors have introduced comparable legislation which is now pending before the Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors commends Chairman Barney Frank, Subcommittee Chair Maxine Waters, the House Financial Services Committee and the full House of Representatives for its passage of the Affordable Housing Trust Fund Act, as well as Senators Kerry and his Senate co-sponsors for their efforts on the Senate side to advance this legislation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges the Congress to enact an Affordable Housing Trust Fund as soon as possible to ensure that housing opportunities are available to all Americans.

MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE CRISIS

WHEREAS, the number of foreclosures soared in 2007, with 405,000 households losing their homes - an increase of 51 percent over 2006 levels; and

WHEREAS, the total number of properties with foreclosure activity in April 2008 reached the highest level on a monthly basis since RealtyTrac began issuing reports on foreclosures in January 2005; and

WHEREAS, this crisis has impacted virtually every city in the country, urban as well as rural areas, and homeowners as well as renters; and

WHEREAS, communities across this country are being devastated by the foreclosure crisis, which has already left many neighborhoods with boarded up homes, declining property values and rising crime; and

WHEREAS, foreclosures in many cases are concentrated in the poorest neighborhoods of a City, where hard-working people have scraped together money to buy homes - often utilizing City programs to do so; and

WHEREAS, the eroding property values directly and significantly impact the quality of life in neighborhoods, reduce the tax base of local governments, and impose increasing costs to city budgets already heavily burdened by a weakened economy; and

WHEREAS, Mayors and community leaders have worked hard to make these neighborhoods thriving places to live and work and the wave of mortgage foreclosures threatens to overtake these neighborhoods where the City and state, federal and non-profit partners have invested millions of dollars to produce high quality, affordable housing,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the United States Conference of Mayors urges Congress to pass legislation forthwith that helps stabilize neighborhoods; targets communities and populations most in need; provides flexibility in the use of the funds so that the most effective response can be designed based on local circumstances, including program alternatives for re-occupancy that do not require local governments to first purchase foreclosed properties before using funds; allows an administrative cap of up to 10 percent on grants to support grantee activities directly tied to foreclosure intervention; and distributes funds directly to local governments on the front lines fighting this crisis and best positioned to act quickly; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the United States Conference of Mayors urges that legislation not restrict unrealistically high amounts of the resources to solely target very low income households, particularly in high-cost localities where housing program experts consider the type and price of the foreclosed housing stock incompatible with sustainable affordable homeownership at those income levels or for rental conversion, which may undermine local efforts to preserve owner-occupied housing and reduce concentration of poverty in these communities, an approach proven to promote neighborhood vitality and stability for all residents; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the United States Conference of Mayors urges that the servicers responsible for the foreclosed and abandoned properties be obligated to work with local governments upon becoming responsible for a foreclosed property in an effort to facilitate the rapid purchase and renovation of foreclosed properties; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the United States Conference of Mayors applauds the leadership of the House Financial Services Committee, House Ways and Means Committee and the Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee for addressing foreclosures and thanks them for their work on behalf of the nation's cities and residents.

**PROVIDING EMERGENCY GRANTS TO STABILIZE COMMUNITIES WITH HIGH
CONCENTRATIONS OF FORECLOSED PROPERTIES**

WHEREAS, in communities with large concentrations of foreclosures, vacant properties can create crime and arson hazards, drain local government resources, drive down the value of surrounding homes and cause overall tax base decline; and

WHEREAS, foreclosures are rampant, up 75 percent nationally above last year's levels, and the number of lender-owned homes nearly doubled in the fourth quarter of 2007 over the same period last year; and

WHEREAS, concentrations of foreclosed, vacant properties are already having devastating impacts on whole communities; and

WHEREAS, existing community development resources are being stretched far too thin and are insufficient to address the national crisis; and

WHEREAS, data from the Joint Economic Committee of the Congress shows that \$736 billion in housing wealth has already been lost and an additional \$1.14 trillion is expected to be lost in 2008 directly as a result of the mortgage foreclosure crisis; and

WHEREAS, Congress is currently developing comprehensive legislation to address the foreclosure crisis,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to include flexible, emergency community stabilization grants that will allow mayors, in partnership with other local community stakeholders, to restore vacant properties and bring them back onto the market as rental and ownership housing in order to arrest and reverse the continued downward cycle, property abandonment, declining property values, shrinking tax base and community asset deterioration through concentrated revitalization efforts.

**PROTECTING MILITARY SERVICEMEN AND VETERANS AT-RISK OF LOSING
THEIR HOME TO MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE**

WHEREAS, cities across the country are continuing to struggle with a mortgage foreclosure crisis that is impacting millions of homeowners nationwide; and

WHEREAS, a large number of active servicemen are currently deployed and away from their homes and families for significant periods of time; and

WHEREAS, military and financial aid groups have identified a rising number of troops who say they are falling behind on their mortgage payments and struggling to keep their homes, and the Army and VA regional loan centers have seen an increase in calls from soldiers, military families, and veterans seeking foreclosure prevention assistance; and

WHEREAS, one of the most effective ways to prevent the foreclosure of a home is to negotiate a refinancing or loan modification with the borrower's mortgage servicer; and

WHEREAS, veterans and active servicemen have limited foreclosure protections and an unfair disadvantage while they are away from home, requiring them to negotiate with their lender from the battlefield; and

WHEREAS, current law makes it difficult for servicemen and veterans to refinance costly mortgages into VA-guaranteed loans, and the maximum VA-backed home loan available for refinancing makes it nearly impossible to help those struggling to escape high-interest loans; and

WHEREAS, currently, lenders can seek a court order to foreclose on a home, even if a soldier is in combat,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors supports increasing the loan amount eligible for VA-guaranteed refinancing and supports increasing the amount of an original VA-guaranteed home loan, expanding options available to veterans and servicemen seeking to avoid foreclosure; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors supports time-limited restrictions on lenders from foreclosing on active-duty servicemen, giving them more time to find a solution and prevent foreclosure of their home.

FULL FUNDING FOR PUBLIC HOUSING AND SECTION 8 PROGRAMS

WHEREAS, the public housing and Section 8 programs provide shelter to over 3.2 million low income Americans across the country, including families with children, elderly and disabled; and

WHEREAS, over 3,200 local public housing authorities own and operate public housing units that provide stable living environments and services for needy residents; and

WHEREAS, HUD's proposed budget for fiscal year 2009 would result in a total funding shortfall in the public housing program of over \$2 billion, a \$700 million reduction in the Public Housing Capital Fund Program, a shortfall in the Public Housing Operating Fund of approximately \$500 million, and the elimination of one month of reserve funds for the Section 8 tenant-based program totaling approximately \$640 million; and

WHEREAS, the proposed \$415 million reduction in the Public Housing Capital Fund will cause further costly delays in addressing the \$22 billion of needed repairs to public housing properties and reduce the number of available units in the face of a national affordable housing crisis; and

WHEREAS, HUD's fiscal year 2009 request for the Public Housing Operating Fund falls approximately \$1 billion short of meeting the operating needs of agencies; and

WHEREAS, HUD's proposed fiscal year 2009 budget for the project-based Section 8 program is \$2.4 billion short and Congress can no longer rely on recaptures and rescissions of large amounts of Section 8 funds to finance HUD funding needs (nearly \$2 billion in Section 8 funds were rescinded in FY08),

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors opposes the proposed HUD fiscal year 2009 budget for the public housing and Section 8 programs and calls upon Congress to appropriate funds to ensure the preservation of this valuable housing resource as follows: \$3.5 billion for Public Housing Capital Fund; \$5.3 billion for Public Housing Operating Fund; \$575 million for HOPE VI Program; and full funding for the Section 8 Program.

SUPPORT FOR HOPE VI PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION AND FUNDING

WHEREAS, many of this nation's 3,100 public housing authorities operate obsolete, dilapidated and even unsafe public housing units that are in immediate need of replacement; and

WHEREAS, the Housing Opportunities for People Everywhere (HOPE VI) Program has been an important catalyst for transforming distressed and disinvested neighborhoods into viable mixed income residential communities; and

WHEREAS, the HOPE VI Program has become a model for cities nationwide working to replace obsolete public housing with a range of affordable housing opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the HOPE VI Program has been credited with increasing employment opportunities and incomes for residents of public housing and improving the social fabric of neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, the HOPE VI Program has attracted a wide range of private investment resources to reinforce public housing resources to fund the cost of public housing assisted units; and

WHEREAS, a study prepared for the Council of Large Public Housing Authorities in 2007 has shown that for every dollar spent on public housing capital and maintenance projects generates \$2.12 in regional spending; and

WHEREAS, the National Commission on Severely Distressed Public Housing originally recommended the HOPE IV Program be funded at \$750 million annually for 10 years and it was funded at that level for only its first year; and

WHEREAS, the Urban Institute estimates that there are up to 80,000 units in need of HOPE VI funding, the public housing inventory has an accumulated capital needs backlog of approximately \$18 billion, with an estimated \$2 billion accruing each year.

WHEREAS, the Bush Administration has zeroed out HOPE IV in the federal budget in each of the previous five years, only to have the Congress restore funding but at significantly lower amounts; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. House of Representatives overwhelmingly approved the "HOPE VI Improvement and Reauthorization Act of 2007",

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges the U.S. Senate to promptly consider and pass the HOPE VI reauthorization; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors calls upon Congress to provide FY2009 appropriations for the HOPE VI program of \$575 million.

PROMOTING WORKFORCE HOUSING

WHEREAS, in many cities, housing located in or near employment centers is too expensive for many working families, such that "average" income households cannot afford a median-priced home; and

WHEREAS, in most parts of the country, increases in wages have not kept pace with increases in housing prices; and

WHEREAS, the lack of housing affordable to middle-income households, typically earning between 80% and 120% of area median income, means that workers who provide essential community services cannot live in the communities where they work; and

WHEREAS, members of the workforce priced out of housing commonly include teachers, police officers, firefighters, nurses, medical technicians, municipal employees, and retail and service industry workers; and

WHEREAS, many federal and state affordable housing incentive programs are directed toward developing homes for lower-income households, so the supply of housing for middle-income workers does not meet demand, particularly in high-cost urban areas; and

WHEREAS, mayors find it economically and socially beneficial to promote workforce housing that can offer various housing types, occupancy terms, and pricing options to accommodate economically diverse workers in communities; and

WHEREAS, the lack of workforce housing has countered smart growth efforts by forcing workers to move further from their jobs, thereby increasing urban sprawl, traffic congestion, and energy consumption; and

WHEREAS, high housing costs already have impacted employers' ability to recruit and retain employees, negatively affecting productivity and profitability, and undermining the local tax base; and

WHEREAS, collaborative efforts between the business community and local government have begun to encourage zoning, regulatory reforms, and financial incentives, including employer-assisted housing, that better promote a balanced housing supply with more workforce housing; and

WHEREAS, targeting these efforts to sectors facing severe worker shortages, such as hospitals and schools, would be particularly beneficial for communities and businesses as a whole,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors hereby urges Congress and the Administration to consider federal policies, incentives, funding, and program reforms that help localities and businesses to promote development of more economically integrated workforce housing near employment centers and transit corridors.

IMPORTANCE OF GREENING AFFORDABLE HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS

WHEREAS, nearly 17 percent of a low-income family's earnings are consumed by energy costs; and

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

WHEREAS, buildings are responsible for almost 40 percent of U.S. energy consumption, with residential housing accounting for more than half of this total; and

WHEREAS, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, in 2005 the residential sector also accounted for 21 percent of U.S. energy-related carbon dioxide emissions, a major cause of global warming; and

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

WHEREAS, a number of cities have already incorporated green building criteria into their affordable housing programs; and

WHEREAS, the House of Representatives included green criteria in the HOPE VI reauthorization bill, H.R. 3524, that passed on a broad bipartisan basis with strong support from the U.S. Conference of Mayors; and

WHEREAS, that legislation, if enacted, would be the first federal housing program with green requirements,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to pass the HOPE VI reauthorization bill and continue to incorporate green criteria into affordable housing and community development programs and legislation on a cost-effective basis.

AMERICA'S ROAD HOME STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES AND ACTIONS

WHEREAS, America's Road Home Statement of Principles and Actions was developed by mayors and other elected officials in partnership with the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness at a Summit in Denver; and

WHEREAS, more than 335 Mayors, County Executives and other elected officials are signatories to America's Road Home Statement of Principles and Actions; and

WHEREAS, America's Road Home Statement of Principles and Actions recognizes more than two million Americans across our country each year experience homelessness in our local communities, compromising the quality of life of the person, and the community; and

WHEREAS, America's Road Home Statement of Principles and Actions recognizes as that elected mayors and county officials, we are on the frontlines of homelessness and accountable to our communities for the well-being of all citizens; and

WHEREAS, America's Road Home Statement of Principles and Actions recognizes that no single level of government can remedy homelessness alone; and

WHEREAS, America's Road Home Statement of Principles and Actions affirms that we will work together with our partners in state and federal government as well as in the foundation philanthropic community and private sector to maintain and enhance the sustainable investment of resources needed to respond; and

WHEREAS, America's Road Home Statement of Principles and Actions recognizes we have taken action to create jurisdictionally-led, community-based 10 Year Plans to end chronic homelessness in our communities in partnership with the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH), the U.S. Conference of Mayors (USCM), and the National Association of Counties (NACo) to end the disgrace; and

WHEREAS, America's Road Home Statement of Principles and Actions encourages mayors to work together in this national partnership of every level of government and the private sector, with our fellow cities and counties and the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness to identify, adopt, and create innovations to prevent and end homelessness; and

WHEREAS, These principles include:

1) End the homelessness of our most vulnerable and disabled citizens who reside on our streets and in our shelters, those

experiencing chronic homelessness, especially including homeless veterans;

2) With the support of our partners work to shorten the time any person is homeless;

3) Accept jurisdictional responsibility for accountability and results in the broader partnership that includes other levels of government and the private sector for an issue that is visible, expensive, and unacceptable in our communities:

4) Affirm our jurisdictionally-led, community-based 10 Year Plans as the community's primary planning strategy to effect accountability and results in ending and preventing homelessness, and

5) Develop these plans to ensure that the measurable outcomes are sustainable and render lasting solutions to homelessness,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors endorses America's Road Home Statement of Principles and Actions and encourages Mayors to become signatories of to America's Road Home Statement of Principles and Actions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors encourages mayors to implement America's Road Home Statement of Principles and Actions in their communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors advances the America's Road Home Statement of Principles and Actions to both candidates for president to create a sustainable approach that achieves results in the lives of our poorest neighbors.

**ENDING HOMELESSNESS FOR VETERANS BY INCREASING INVESTMENT IN
HUD-VASH VOUCHERS**

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

WHEREAS, most veterans return and acclimate and live productive lives in this country; and

WHEREAS, some returning veterans, however, face difficulties in their return related to psychological or physical challenges and disabilities, and become homeless; and

WHEREAS, mayors are committed to supporting homeless veterans and assuring they have the housing and services they need to rebuild their lives; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) recently reported that, on any given night, there are 154,000 veterans who are homeless; and

WHEREAS, this is a decrease from 250,000 veterans that were homeless the VA reported in the late 1990's, and from 195,000 veterans that were homeless the VA reported in 2006; and

WHEREAS, decreased veteran homelessness corresponds to the creation of permanent supported housing as the primary intervention; and

WHEREAS, we have learned that homeless veterans with disabilities often need housing that is subsidized with onsite services to assist them in their return to home and community; and

WHEREAS, the FY 2006 VA CHALLENGE report indicates that one of the most significant unmet needs for veterans is long-term, permanent housing; and

WHEREAS, HUD VASH (the joint U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing Program) has provided Section 8 Vouchers for permanent housing and ongoing treatment services to the harder-to-serve homeless mentally ill veterans and those suffering from substance abuse disorders; and

WHEREAS, ongoing, rigorous evaluation of HUD-VASH indicates that this approach significantly reduces days of homelessness for veterans plagued by serious mental illness and substance abuse disorders, and offers stability and security to those who have served their country; and

WHEREAS, the FY 2008 Federal Budget funds a \$75 million investment for 10,000 new HUD-VASH Vouchers which were recently allocated to more than 135 communities for permanent housing for homeless veterans, veterans at risk of homelessness, and veterans with families, including those returning from OEF/OIF; and

WHEREAS, the President's FY 2009 Budget request includes a \$75 million investment for additional new HUD VASH vouchers anticipated to provide another approximately 10,000 vouchers for permanent housing,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors endorses the HUD-VASH program as an important investment in ending homelessness among veterans; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors endorses the increased investment in HUD-VASH, including the \$75 million in additional funding for new HUD-VASH vouchers included in the President's FY 2009 budget request, and encourages the Congress to increase this resource to end veteran homelessness.

**ENDORISING THE INNOVATION OF NATIONAL PROJECT HOMELESS CONNECT TO
ENGAGE OUR HOMELESS NEIGHBOR AND OFFER RESOURCES**

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

WHEREAS, mayors and cities are on the front lines of the response to homelessness; and

WHEREAS, the National Partnership created by the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) has brought together 20 federal agencies, 52 governors of states and territories, and over 335 mayors to remedy chronic homelessness; and

WHEREAS, the partnership of the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness with the U.S. Conference of Mayors has resulted in the creation of over 335 jurisdictionally based 10-Year Plans to end chronic homelessness, and many cities of all sizes now report quantifiable results in reducing street and chronic homelessness; and

WHEREAS, Project Homeless Connect was created by Mayor Gavin Newsom in San Francisco, CA in October 2004; and demonstrated remarkable results in engaging street and chronic homeless people; and

WHEREAS, the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness identified Project Homeless Connect as a replicable innovation and supported "pilgrimages" to experience the event, when there was a five-fold increase in the number of events hosted nationwide; and

WHEREAS, the innovation of National Project Homeless Connect disseminated by the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness is helping cities welcome people experiencing homelessness back into community life by mobilizing volunteers from all walks of life to provide services and housing in one-day, one-stop engagement events that support the goals of their 10-Year Plans; and

WHEREAS, over the last four years more than 170 cities of all sizes have adopted this innovation first developed in San Francisco, hosting over 300 events, and building on models of response to Katrina and veterans' Stand Downs; and

WHEREAS, mayors have organized Project Homeless Connect events specifically to engage homeless youth, homeless families, and chronically homeless individuals; and

WHEREAS, mayors have engaged business, academia, professional sports, and an expansive range of new public and private partners in executing Project Homeless Connect events; and

WHEREAS, research compiled by the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness suggests that Project Homeless Connect provides consumer-centric strategies to deliver immediate results in needed services, housing, and employment, and supports a new way of doing business to achieve results for homeless consumers; and

WHEREAS, cities of all sizes have developed best practices in Project Homeless Connect events and have been encouraged by the Interagency Council to share their strategies with other cities; and

WHEREAS, the Interagency Council has convened coordinated annual National Project Homeless Connect events in December 2005, December 2006, and December 2007 to partner with cities, and has designated December 1 -7, 2008 as 2008 National Project Homeless Connect Week,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors encourages and supports the increased involvement of Mayors in creating Project Homeless Connect events and participating in the 2008 National Project Homeless Connect Week and throughout the year in proven strategies that end homelessness; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors commends this innovative initiative and encourages mayors to adopt the National Project Homeless Connect model and participate in the 2008 National Project Homeless Connect Week.

ENDING HOMELESSNESS OF EX-OFFENDERS THROUGH SECOND CHANCE ACT

WHEREAS, many ex-offenders are discharged out of the back doors of prisons and jails into the front doors of homeless programs without supports or services, increasing homelessness with few resources to respond; and

WHEREAS, the Prisoner Reentry Initiative (PRI) is yielding results for America's ex-offenders. In the first two years of the program, more than 12,800 offenders have enrolled in the prisoner reentry program. More than 7,900 offenders have been placed in jobs. Only 18 percent of those enrolled in the program have been arrested again within one year - less than half the estimated national average; and

WHEREAS, the Second Chance Act formally authorized key elements of the Prisoner Reentry Initiative (PRI) to help reduce recidivism in urban centers and other areas with the greatest need to help prisoners effectively reintegrate into the community; and

WHEREAS the Second Chance Act offers better connections to housing, employment, and treatment, all of which will reduce recidivism and prevent and end homelessness; and

WHEREAS, the Second Chance Act enhances drug treatment, mentoring, and stabilization services for ex-offenders through partnerships with local corrections agencies and faith-based and community organizations; and

WHEREAS, the Second Chance Act assists states and local government entities in partnership with nonprofit organizations to establish prisoner reentry demonstration projects that will aid in preventing recidivism and homelessness by providing: education, vocational training, and job placement services; coordinated supervision for offenders upon release, including housing that is permanent, affordable and linked to health, mental health, employment, and other support services that provides long-term, community-based housing options; and

WHEREAS, jurisdictionally led, community based 10 Year Plans to End Chronic Homelessness, encouraged by the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness, would be assisted in implementation by offering strategies and resources emphasizing the roles for every level of government and community stakeholders in

developing Second Chance Act alternatives to expensive police/court interventions and prisoner release into homelessness; and

WHEREAS, such resources will re-moralize overburdened police, Judges, and jailers,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors endorses the new Second Chance Act legislation that promotes the safe and successful reintegration into the community of individuals who have been incarcerated and supports programs geared toward the rapid re-housing of ex-offenders; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the President and Congress are commended for passage and signing into law of "The Second Chance Act" demonstrating that bipartisan approaches to social problems offer an avenue to remedy seemingly intractable obstacles and are encouraged to support the provision of budget resources to implement the Second Chance Act.

ENDORSING 10-YEAR PLANS TO END CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS

WHEREAS, mayors in partnership with the U. S. Interagency Council on Homelessness are committed to ending chronic homelessness in our nation's cities; and

WHEREAS, mayors and cities are on the front lines of the response to chronic homelessness; and

WHEREAS, the abolition of chronic homelessness requires a partnership at all levels of government, the private sector, and all other community stakeholders, and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors and the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness have been partnered for more than 5 years to prevent and end homelessness in our nation's cities, a partnership of accountability and results; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the partnership with Mayors and County Executives, the private sector, and all other stakeholders, more than 335 cities have committed to create jurisdictionally led, community based, business oriented 10 Year Plans to End Homelessness; and

WHEREAS, 10 Year Plans have identified innovations, such as assertive community treatment, housing first and rapid re-housing, private sector community champions, cost benefit analysis, and Project Homeless Connect, that have been adopted by communities across the country; and

WHEREAS, a number of communities implementing 10 Year Plans to End Homelessness, and adopting these innovations, are seeing reductions in the number of people experiencing chronic homelessness living on their streets and languishing in emergency shelters, the first such reductions communities have seen in over 20 years; and

WHEREAS, these reductions in chronic and street homelessness are improving the quality of life for all members of the community, housed and homeless alike,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors endorses and encourage Mayors to develop and implement 10 Year Plans to End Homelessness for their communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors encourages Mayors to adopt the national innovations identified through 10 Year Plans to End Homelessness that are leading to reductions in chronic and street homelessness; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors endorses the targeting of federal resources to housing first and rapid re-housing strategies and other innovations in 10 Year Plans to End Homelessness that have demonstrated the result of reducing and ending the homelessness of our poorest neighbors.

**THE SELECTION OF "COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS" BY MAYORS TO INSPIRE 10
YEAR PLANNING EFFORTS WITH JURISDICTIONAL LEADERS**

WHEREAS, mayors and cities are on the front lines of the response to chronic homelessness; and

WHEREAS, mayors are committed through 10 Year Plans to ending chronic homelessness in our nation's cities; and

WHEREAS, over 335 cities and counties have created jurisdictionally-led, community-based 10 Year Plans to End Homelessness focused on ending the disgrace of homelessness, not managing it, and many of these plans are leading to results; and

WHEREAS, the development and implementation of these 10 Year Plans to End Homelessness bring together community leaders representing all stakeholder groups, including the leadership of the private sector; and

WHEREAS, these private sector leaders bring a business mindset to the development and implementation of 10 Year Plans to End Homelessness, a mindset that recognizes the importance of investing in solutions that are research and data driven, performance based, and results oriented; and

WHEREAS mayors have recognized the critical importance of the involvement of these private sector leaders and the business mindset they bring to the success of their Plan; and

WHEREAS, mayors have therefore adopted the Community Champion model, disseminated as a national innovation by the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness, in the appointment by the mayor of a highly visible and credible private sector leader or leaders not primarily associated with homelessness to lead the implementation of the 10 Year Plan; and

WHEREAS Community Champions have leveraged significant new resources, including drawing in new private sector partners in support of the implementation of 10 Year Plans; and

WHEREAS, these new resources have shown direct impact on the results these communities are achieving,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors endorses the national innovation of the Community Champion; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors, encourages mayors to adopt the Community Champion innovation in

the development and implementation of the 10 Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness in their communities.

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**HOUSING FIRST AND RAPID RE-HOUSING AS KEY STRATEGIES IN ENDING
HOMELESSNESS AND CREATING RESULTS IN 10 YEAR PLANS**

WHEREAS, people experiencing chronic homelessness are our most disabled and vulnerable citizens and most likely to die on the streets of our communities; and

WHEREAS, research has indicated people experiencing chronic homelessness comprise between 10 and 20% of all homeless persons, but consume 50% of the resources targeted to homelessness; and

WHEREAS, research has also shown that people experiencing chronic homelessness are very expensive in mainstream health, treatment, and law enforcement systems and, according to current research, may cost the community between \$35,000 and \$150,000 per person per year in their random ricocheting through such systems; and

WHEREAS, permanent housing is the central antidote to homelessness; and

WHEREAS, research has shown that providing permanent housing with wrap-around support services in the context of permanent housing, known as Housing First and Rapid Re-Housing, results in costs ranging from \$13,500 to \$25,000, resulting in the potential for significant cost savings to communities; and

WHEREAS, research studies across the country indicate that 85% of people experiencing chronic homelessness who move into Housing First and Rapid Re-housing options stabilize and maintain that housing; and

WHEREAS, the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness has disseminated Housing First and Rapid Re-Housing as a national innovation that is leading to results, and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has designated Housing First as an evidence-based practice; and

WHEREAS, the mayors and county executives of over 335 cities and counties have committed to develop and implement jurisdictionally led, community based 10 Year Plans to End Homelessness, in partnership with the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness; and

WHEREAS, most jurisdictionally led 10 Year Plans to End Homelessness now recognize Housing First as a core strategy in their 10 Year Plans to reduce and end chronic homelessness; and

WHEREAS, a number of communities implementing 10 Year Plans to End Homelessness with Housing First and Rapid Re-housing strategies are seeing reductions in the number of people experiencing chronic homelessness living on their streets and languishing in emergency shelters,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors recognizes Housing First and Rapid Re-housing as key strategies in ending the homelessness of the most vulnerable and disabled people in our communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors recognizes the effectiveness of the partnership between Mayors and the U. S. Interagency Council on Homelessness, manifested in the development of 10 Year Plans to End Homelessness that are leading to reductions in chronic homelessness.

ENDORISING THE NATIONAL PARTNERSHIP TO END HOMELESSNESS

WHEREAS, mayors in partnership with the U. S. Interagency Council on Homelessness are committed to ending chronic homelessness in our nation's cities; and

WHEREAS, mayors acknowledge the importance of the initiatives and inspiration furthered in cities across the country by the work of the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness; and

WHEREAS, the National Partnership with Mayors, County Executives, the private sector and other stakeholders has resulted in more than 335 cities committed to implementing jurisdictionally based, business oriented 10 Year Plans to End Homelessness; and

WHEREAS, mayors and cities have benefited by and recognize the importance of the direct assistance provided by the U. S. Interagency Council on Homelessness through access to experts, innovations, and new strategies; and

WHEREAS, the National Partnership with Mayors has brought innovation and results in ending homelessness to the lives of people experiencing homelessness; and

WHEREAS, dozens of jurisdictional partnerships have yielded reductions in the number of chronically homeless people living on the streets and long-term in shelters, the first such reductions communities have seen in over 20 years; and

WHEREAS, the results realized through the National Partnership are improving the quality of life of all citizens, housed and homeless alike,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors endorses the National Partnership to End Homelessness constellated by the U. S. Interagency Council on Homelessness; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors encourages mayors to affirm the National Partnership by committing to creating new partnerships that further the development and implementation of local 10 Year Plans to end chronic homelessness in their communities.

**SUPPORTING INNOVATIVE POLICIES TO END AND PREVENT CHRONIC
HOMELESSNESS ACROSS THE NATION**

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

WHEREAS, chronically homeless individuals, those with the most persistent forms of homelessness, are afflicted not only by poverty but also by severe conditions such as mental illness and substance abuse; and

WHEREAS, mayors and cities are on the front lines of the response to chronic homelessness; and

WHEREAS, in order for persons experiencing chronic homelessness to succeed in their housing, supportive services are necessary to mitigate health, substance abuse, and mental health problems; and

WHEREAS, numerous studies compiled by the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness have shown that permanent supportive housing models to end chronic homelessness are highly effective and that the cost of providing supportive housing is substantially offset by savings in the most expensive systems of community care including hospitalizations, jails, and other correctional facilities; and

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

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

WHEREAS, more than 330 local governments have created jurisdictionally-based 10-Year Plans to end chronic homelessness, many of which are showing results; and

WHEREAS, though there is progress in many communities, new data demonstrates that homelessness continues to be one of our nation's most challenging social problems; more than 2 million people experience homelessness over the course of a year; and

WHEREAS, over 20 percent of all homeless adults are veterans and 44,000 and 64,000 veterans are chronically homeless, representing a national tragedy,

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors, to achieve the goal of ending chronic homelessness in 10 years, urges Congress to appropriate \$2 billion in HUD's Homeless Assistance Grants program, which would enable communities to develop 15,000 units of permanent supportive housing; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors continues to endorse and urges Congress to create new permanent funding sources for supportive services for the homeless within the Health and Human Services budget; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to re-authorize the McKinney-Vento Act with provisions for regulatory relief that would allow existing federal funds appropriated through McKinney-Vento to be fully expended and more efficiently utilized each budget year; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress, through the re-authorization of the McKinney-Vento Act, to fund an innovative grants program that would provide demonstration grants to communities across the nation implementing ten-year plans to end chronic homelessness; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on Congress and the Administration to provide permanent supportive housing to assist the nation's significant and growing homeless veterans population, including providing additional Section 8 Vouchers for the HUD-Veterans Affairs Supported Housing (HUD-VASH) program, which provides permanent housing subsidies and case management services to homeless veterans with mental and addictive disorders; and through the VA Medical Care Account, provide a dollar for dollar supportive services match for the HUD-VASH Section 8 vouchers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress and HUD to end homelessness for the roughly 600,000 families who are homeless each year by providing rapid rehousing programs that focus on helping homeless families move back into permanent housing as quickly as possible; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors endorses and urges Congress to enact legislation that would provide Federal housing assistance and services to youth over the age of 18 aging out of foster care and in need of assistance; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors affirms the value of the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness and commends its initiatives to support mayors as they implement ten year plans.

**PROTECTING MAIN STREET SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS FROM PREDATORY
LENDERS**

WHEREAS, America's 26.8 million small businesses are the engine of the U.S. economy, employing half of all private-sector employees, representing 99.7% of all employers, and responsible for 45% of net new jobs generated annually in the last decade, and

WHEREAS, eight million of these small businesses pursue financing each year throughout the United States, and

WHEREAS, 65% of these eight million (5.2 million) are unable to secure traditional bank loans or lines, and

WHEREAS, as a result, many small businesses use family money, personal credit cards or personal loans and approximately 35% have relied on home-equity loans to finance their businesses.

WHEREAS, the recent turmoil in both the housing and credit markets has caused banks to tighten their lending criteria and consequently, credit opportunities to small business owners have been significantly reduced, and

WHEREAS, a perfect storm has emerged across the United States, leaving many small businesses, including millions throughout the main streets of our cities and towns, struggling to access the capital they need to sustain and grow their businesses, and

WHEREAS, predatory lenders have emerged to exploit the current credit environment and increasing cash flow needs of small businesses and are selling usurious products known as merchant cash advances (MCA), which are advances on a business's future credit card receivables (aka "factoring of future credit card sales"), and

WHEREAS, merchant cash advances are not loans and do not have to follow state or federal lending regulations, and feature over 85% approval rates and imputed annual percentage rates as high as 200%, and in addition to these egregious rates, require daily deductions of 18-25% of the small business's credit card sales - significantly more than a business can afford, and

WHEREAS, merchant cash advance companies have already lent approximately \$2 billion at egregious rates and have been quoted in leading main stream media publications such as Forbes, Business Week, Dallas Morning News, and American Banker claiming that their new originations have increased 75% in the first half of 2008.

WHEREAS, America's cities need strong Main Street businesses to continue to have a stable tax base, safe streets and a vibrant commercial center, and

WHEREAS, as with payday lenders and predatory lenders in the home mortgage community, Mayors need to take a leadership role to scrutinize predatory merchant cash advance companies, educate small business owners of the dangers posed by these firms, and increase awareness and promotion of alternative, more affordable funding sources to support this vital segment of our economy.

WHEREAS the mayor in each of our cities can protect our small businesses by promoting and advising small business owners to ask and have answered five simple questions before agreeing to accept any type of financing from a non-traditional provider:

- Is the financing product a regulated loan?
- What is the total interest paid and how does that cost translate into an Annual Percentage Rate (APR)?
- What is the payment amount?
- What is the payment frequency?
- Exactly how long will it take to repay the loan?

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The US Conference of Mayors strongly supports small businesses and the independent business owners located in our cities and will protect them from predatory lenders offering exploitive merchant cash advances; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the mayor in each of our cities shall educate Main Street business owners and the small business community of the dangers of merchant cash advances and promote to them alternative lending sources that are more affordable.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that to protect the general health and viability of their small business communities, cities should investigate whether they can effectively regulate or ban merchant cash advances.

SUPPORTING CITIES INCREASED HURRICANE AND TORNADO PREPAREDNESS

WHEREAS, both tornados and hurricanes can strike many coastal and heartland cities with limited warning and threaten the lives of their citizens and cause billions of dollars of destruction; and

WHEREAS, when compared with the last three years, tornado activity and fatalities have increased each year to the highest levels in over a decade; and

WHEREAS, many cities that experience hurricanes do not have the ability to evacuate all their citizens and have limited space in designated safe havens like community shelters and high density populations combined with limited highway infrastructure prevents and discourages people for leaving their homes; and

WHEREAS, the majority of citizens who face tornados do not always have access to a safe-haven and can not seek immediate shelter when severe weather unexpectedly strikes as tornados' unpredictability give people only a few minutes or seconds to seek shelter; and

WHEREAS, in many of the cities impacted by severe weather the citizens whose homes are destroyed may lack the confidence to rebuild and in many cases it takes new and innovative building policies, building codes and building science to give the assurance back to its citizens; and

WHEREAS, mayors, state, federal and other government officials have been working for decades with universities and the building industry to develop innovative building codes and building products to help better protect their citizens,

NOW, THEREFORE, IT BE RESOLVED, The U.S. Conference of Mayors continues to support the collaboration between government, research and industry in the development of better building science and improved building codes for their citizens; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The U.S. Conference of Mayors adopt the latest building guidelines related to storm protection in an expedient fashion the such as the International Code Council - 500 related to storm shelter guidelines and other wind borne debris codes used for hurricane protection; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The U.S. Conference of Mayors asks Congress to consider funding initiatives for those families directly impacted by severe storm weather such as assisting homeowners to rebuild with confidence with grant money

specifically for storm protection incentives for in-home storm shelters or hurricane impact resistant windows; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The US Conference of Mayors encourages city residents to be prepared as an extremely active tornado and hurricane season are upon us by visiting local city websites or www.ready.gov for information as to how to be better prepared for an extreme weather event.

FEDERAL HOME LOAN BANKS

WHEREAS, Federal Home Loan Banks (FHLBanks) are 12 regional government sponsored enterprises (GSEs) chartered by Congress in 1932 to provide liquidity to their 8,100 financial institution members across the country ensuring the available funding for affordable housing and community development; and

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

WHEREAS, FHLBanks, through their Affordable Housing Program, have helped rehabilitate neighborhoods by providing over \$3 billion in grants for affordable housing projects since 1990; and

WHEREAS, the housing mission of the FHLBanks has been expanded by Congressional and regulatory action to include providing resources for community and economic development; and

WHEREAS, Section 149(b) of the Internal Revenue Code permits GSEs such as the Federal National Mortgage Association and the Government National Mortgage Association to issue letters of credit on tax exempt bonds while excluding FHLBanks; and

WHEREAS, amending Section 149(b) by adding the FHLBanks to the list of GSEs would allow the FHLBanks to better carry out their ongoing mission of supporting housing and community and economic development lending; and

WHEREAS, obtaining credit enhancement from highly-rated FHLBanks, through their members for tax exempt bonds would significantly lower the costs to cities and therefore increase their capacity to create jobs and generate new tax revenue; and

WHEREAS, proposed legislation amending Section 149, passed by the U.S. House has been scored by the Joint Tax Committee at only \$120 million over ten years, a loss of revenue that will be recouped many times over by local economic development,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges the Congress to pass an amendment to Section 149(b) of the Internal Revenue Code adding "any letter of credit issued by a FHLBank" to the list of permissible letters of credit enhancing tax exempt bonds; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors support legislation, regulatory changes and other initiatives designed to expand the ability of FHLBanks to serve the housing,

community and economic development and public finance needs of cities through their investment authority, introduction of new business activities, and development of new initiatives.

THE COPS PROGRAM

WHEREAS, 14 years ago, with the strong support of America's mayors and law enforcement leaders, 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 39,000 grants to more than 13,200 law enforcement agencies representing a \$13.5 billion taxpayer investment in public safety; and

WHEREAS, COPS grants have been used to fund the hiring and redeployment of nearly 117,000 additional officers including over 6,500 School Resource Officers, expand and enhance crime-fighting technology, support crime prevention, and advance community policing; and

WHEREAS, COPS has trained over 500,000 law enforcement personnel, local government leaders, and community members in various community policing strategies, produced over 500 publications and resource materials for law enforcement; and

WHEREAS, the taxpayer investment of over \$579 million through the COPS Office has helped state and local law enforcement agencies 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, COPS continues to enjoy 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, cities across America continue to use COPS funding to hire and train police officers including school resource officers, enhance vital public safety communication and coordination, develop and implement community policing best practices, and enhance their capacity to reduce crime and prevent future acts of terror; 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 return of over 860,000 ex-offenders from prisons and jails back into local communities annually – many of whom will have not received needed drug treatment; 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 2009 budget proposes to cut the COPS program from \$587 million to zero, eliminating the COPS Office entirely,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the COPS program must be fully maintained in FY 2009 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; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any reauthorization of COPS should provide significant resources to address the critical needs of local law enforcement, allow for greater program flexibility, continue the COPS Office as an independent component within the Department of Justice, and preserve within COPS all of its current functions. The new program should allow for flexibility to use funding in areas including general hiring, school resource officers, officer re-deployments, officer retention, overtime, technology, and communications interoperability.

THE EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT (JAG) PROGRAM

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

WHEREAS, a recent study showed that Byrne JAG programs have resulted in 220,000 arrests, 54,000 seized weapons, the destruction of 5.5 million grams of methamphetamine, and the elimination of almost 9,000 methamphetamine labs; and

WHEREAS, the nation must remain diligent in its crime prevention and control efforts to ensure that past gains are maintained and that crime rates do not increase, especially as they relate to youth violence and crime, new and evolving drug-related crime concerns, a rise in gang violence, and in light of the return of over 860,000 ex-offenders from prisons and jails back into local communities each year - many of whom will have not received needed drug treatment; and

WHEREAS, in 2002 the Bush Administration proposed creating a new Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) program by merging the Local Law Enforcement Block Grant with the state-based Byrne Formula Grant program; and

WHEREAS, in proposing this new program, the Department of Justice said, "This makes sense, because the two programs funded similar purposes and activities. The consolidation of the two grant programs should result in a simplified application process for participating state and local governments;" and

WHEREAS, in 2004 Congress approved the Administration's merger and a new Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant program was created at a reduced funding level of \$634 million; and

WHEREAS, since then the Administration has consistently proposed elimination of the program in its annual budget submission to Congress; and

WHEREAS, Congress has continued to provide funding for the program, but each year that funding level has been reduced and it now stands at \$170 million for the current fiscal year,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors registers its strong support for the Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) program and calls on Congress to fund the program at no less than the FY 2005 level of \$634 million.

COMMON SENSE MEASURES IN SUPPORT OF EFFORTS TO FIGHT ILLEGAL GUNS

WHEREAS, a loophole (i.e. the gun show loophole) in the law enables criminals to avoid background checks if they buy guns at gun shows; and

WHEREAS, gun dealers who are shut down by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) for selling guns illegally are currently permitted to sell off their remaining inventory without conducting background checks; and

WHEREAS, gun dealers are currently not required to perform background checks on their employees; and

WHEREAS, six years after 9/11, suspects on the terror watch list are able to pass background checks and purchase guns; and

WHEREAS, the Tiahrt Amendments, which have been inserted into the Department of Justice appropriations bill each year since FY 2003, place unnecessarily broad restrictions on access to and use of gun trace data that is compiled by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives; and

WHEREAS, on April 25, 2006 a bipartisan group of fifteen Mayors met in New York City at the Mayor's Summit on Illegal Guns, co-chaired by Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg and Mayor Thomas M. Menino, to begin a nationwide effort to fight illegal guns; and

WHEREAS, today, over 320 mayors, representing over 50 million people across the United States are now members of Mayors Against Illegal Guns; and

WHEREAS, 30,000 Americans across the country are killed every year as a result of gun violence, destroying families and communities in big cities and small towns; and

WHEREAS, as Mayors, we are duty-bound to do everything in our power to protect our residents, especially our children, from harm and there is no greater threat to public safety than the threat of illegal guns; and

WHEREAS, licensed gun dealers are required to run criminal background checks on all buyers, but a loophole in the law enables criminals to avoid these checks if they buy from gun-sellers who do not have licenses. Often operating at gun shows, these unlicensed sellers give criminals the opportunity to

sidestep the background check system and easily purchase guns. Congress should close the "gun show loophole" by passing S.2577 and H.R. 96; and

WHEREAS, the federal government can shut down a gun dealer for selling illegally, it has nevertheless permitted dealers to sell off their inventory - without conducting background checks. Congress should end such gun dealer firesales; and

WHEREAS, under the current law, if a person can't buy guns - because he or she has a criminal record or a history of mental illness - that person cannot sell guns either. But the law fails to require dealers to conduct background checks on their employees, even though they already use the background check system in their stores every day. Congress should require gun store employee background checks; and

WHEREAS, six years after 9/11, the federal government can stop suspects on terror watch lists from getting on airplanes, but it cannot stop them from buying firearms. Congress should close the "the Terror Gap" by passing S.1237/H.R.2074,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to enact legislation that would prevent guns from getting into the hands of criminals by closing serious gaps in the gun background check system. USCM calls on Congress to close the gun show loophole, end the gun dealer fire sales provision, require gun dealers to perform background checks on their employees, and close the terror gap; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to reject legislative proposals such as the Tiahrt amendment and others that limit our cities' ability to solve and prevent crime in our communities.

MICROSTAMPING: IN SUPPORT OF EFFORTS TO FIGHT ILLEGAL GUN TRAFFICKING AND INCREASE THE ABILITY OF LAW ENFORCEMENT TO CLOSE GUN RELATED CASES

WHEREAS, in 2005, the national clearance rate for homicide cases was only 62 percent and over 3,000 gun homicide cases went unsolved; and

WHEREAS, in approximately half of gun homicide investigations a spent cartridge casing, but not a firearm, is recovered at the crime scene; and

WHEREAS, currently deployed national ballistic identification systems cannot identify the serial number of a gun unless the gun itself has been recovered; and

WHEREAS, the serial number of a firearm allows investigators to access the existing crime gun trace database and identify the first purchaser of the firearm; and

WHEREAS, information from completed crime gun tracing is an important element utilized by COMPSTAT and other crime analysis systems; and

WHEREAS, firearm microstamping is an evolutionary technology that allows law enforcement to identify the serial number of a crime gun from an expended cartridge and enter the trace data system without having recovered the gun; and

WHEREAS, microstamping has been proven to make unique and consistent markings through thousands of rounds of testing; and

WHEREAS, microstamping will cost less than a few dollars a gun to implement; and

WHEREAS, law enforcement should have all the tools necessary to investigate gun trafficking, close gun-related cases and protect the public,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to enact the National Crime Gun Identification Act of 2007 (S. 2605/H.R. 5266) sponsored by Senator Edward M. Kennedy and Representative Xavier Becerra that would require all new semi-automatic firearms manufactured or sold after January 1, 2010 to be microstamp-enabled.

COMPREHENSIVE GANG ABATEMENT LEGISLATION

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

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

WHEREAS, the Federal Bureau of Investigation estimates there are 800,000 active gang members nationwide - more than the total number of law enforcement officers; and

WHEREAS, according to the 2005 National Gang Threat Assessment, published by the National Alliance of Gang Investigators Association, gangs account for several alarming trends in the U.S.:

- Gangs remain the primary distributors of drugs;
- Neighborhood, or homegrown gangs are being found more frequently in the Northeast;
- The growth of gangs within certain communities of the South has brought increased levels of violence and crime to the region;
- In the Midwest, gang activity has increased around schools and college campuses;
- Street gangs in the West are more frequently involved in the distribution of both marijuana and methamphetamine; and

WHEREAS, between one-quarter and one-half of all homicides in major urban jurisdictions are now considered to be gang-related; and

WHEREAS, gang operations, activities, and their effects cross multiple local and state jurisdictions and cannot be adequately addressed at the local level alone, and, therefore, the federal government must take a leadership role and dedicate increased resources to this effort; and

WHEREAS, criminal justice experts and scientific research support the need for a comprehensive and balanced approach to address the continuing and changing nature of gangs and gang-

related crimes, including prevention, intervention, enforcement, and ex-offender reentry strategies; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. has the highest incarceration rate in the world with nearly 550 people to every 100,000 currently experiencing some form of incarceration, and a recent report by the Children's Defense Fund found that among boys born in 2001, black boys have a one in three chance of spending time in prison while white boys have a one in 17 chance, and identified poverty, a struggling education system, and an unresponsive punitive juvenile justice system as contributing factors; and

WHEREAS, the "cradle to prison pipeline" dynamic described by the Children's Defense Fund characterizes more and more youths today; and

WHEREAS, reliance on imprisoning gang members does not solve the problem since, according to the National Gang Threat Assessment, gangs often weather incarceration by organizing in jail or prison as effectively as on the street, and some youth actually are recruited to a gang affiliation while incarcerated; and

WHEREAS, an effective approach to the gang problem must include positive development for youths before they commit crimes, at a point when the choices and relationships promoting a gang lifestyle have not solidified; and

WHEREAS, prevention and intervention efforts are more cost effective than the building and maintaining of prisons since, according to the Justice Policy Institute, when a community invests one dollar in drug treatment, it will receive \$18.52 in return from reduced crime and public safety benefits - but for every dollar invested in prison, the return is only \$0.37; and

WHEREAS, some of the \$65 billion the U.S. spends each year to keep 2.2 million people incarcerated (according to the Bureau of Justice Statistics) may achieve better results if spent on prevention and intervention activities; and

WHEREAS, in addition to enforcement efforts, mayors around the country have launched successful community-based, comprehensive, anti-gang programs which include prevention and intervention activities that direct at-risk youth toward positive educational and employment opportunities; and

WHEREAS, additional federal resources are needed to supplement state and local efforts in more effectively combating criminal street gangs; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Congress has engaged in serious debate over the last decade on how to address the rising gang problem in our nation, but despite Senate action in 2008, still has failed to pass legislation that would support efforts to combat gang violence in our communities;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on the House of Representatives to act and Congress to immediately pass comprehensive legislation that will provide resources to cities seeking to reduce gang activity and violence; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that such legislation should include assistance to implement strategies that prevent and deter gang activity among at-risk youth populations, support community-based positive youth development programs, promote ex-offender reintegration to reduce gang recidivism, provide necessary resources to law enforcement authorities, and help local governments in enforcing laws that keep communities safe from gangs;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The Conference of Mayors urges Congress to address gang activity by giving greater attention to and support for evidenced-based methods proven to reduce youth violence and delinquency, such as early childhood education, home visiting for parent training, after-school mentoring, mental health services, and substance abuse treatment services.

**IN SUPPORT OF FULL FUNDING AND 'BEST PRACTICE' IMPLEMENTATION OF
THE SECOND CHANCE ACT**

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors has long established policy on the reintegration of ex-offenders covering the last ten years; and

WHEREAS, in 1998, the USCM called upon the federal government to implement better funding methods through the States for addressing youth violence and juvenile justice issues; and

WHEREAS, in 2005, the USCM adopted policy supporting passage of the Second Chance Act as well as encouraging the efforts of faith-based and community initiatives to aid the reentry community; and

WHEREAS, in 2007, the USCM made its boldest statement to date on reentry concerns by outlining specific actions that should be taken by all levels of government to provide ex-offenders with greater opportunities to attain self-sufficiency; and

WHEREAS, in 2007, the USCM reiterated its call for better regulation of the sealing, expunging and releasing of juvenile records, particularly those associated with nonviolent crimes, so that young people affected have the maximum opportunity to become self-sufficient, successful adults; and

WHEREAS, these policies have taken on added significance thanks to the successful passage and signing into federal law of the "Second Chance Act of 2007." Now, there exists federal authorization for ex-offender efforts that have been championed by mayors for years; and

WHEREAS, the Second Chance Act endorses a more comprehensive approach to addressing reentry, requiring collaboration amongst federal agencies such as DOJ, HHS, and DOL, as well as state/local government and private service providers; and

WHEREAS, the Second Chance Act also helps to bridge the nexus between work and reentry by collapsing barriers to institutional aid experienced by those attempting to reenter society, including, for example, bans of financial assistance for higher education, HUD's 'one-strike-and-you're-out' policy, and a lifetime ban on TANF and food stamp benefits for ex-offenders with certain convictions; and

WHEREAS, the Second Chance Act contains several critical authorizations for fiscal years 2009 and 2010 such as \$55 million for Adult and Juvenile Offender State/Local Reentry Demonstration Projects; \$10 million for state/local family-based abuse treatment programs; \$10 million for state/local evaluation efforts of educational methods at prisons, jails, and juvenile facilities; \$15 million for state/local governments toward the Reentry Substance Abuse and Criminal Justice Collaboration Program; \$10 million for state/local governments toward the Technology Careers Training Program; \$15 million for nonprofit organizations toward Mentoring Programs; and

WHEREAS, Section 101 of the Second Chance Act requires that each local government applicant develop a comprehensive strategic reentry plan that contains annual and five-year performance outcomes,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the United States Conference of Mayors calls upon the U.S. Congress to fund the Second Chance Act for fiscal years 2009 and 2010 at the full authorized amount; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the USCM calls upon the U.S. Congress to begin discussions on a reauthorization of the Second Chance Act upon the convening of the 111th Congress for an additional period of more than a two years; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the USCM Ex-Offender Task Force work in close coordination with the Second Chance Act's National Resource Center, assisting the Center in meeting its mandate of collecting data and information on best practices in reentry programming and partnering with the Center in disseminating 'best practice' knowledge to state and local governments; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that mayors commit to assessing and reducing the barriers that exist in their own municipal regulations to hiring, promoting, and providing increased compensation opportunities for ex-offenders in city-paid positions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the USCM calls upon the U.S. Department of Labor to assess each state's obstructions to employing ex-offenders and list those obstructions in a timely publication that can be used by state and local governments to reduce such impediments.

ENDING HOMELESSNESS OF EX-OFFENDERS THROUGH SECOND CHANCE ACT

WHEREAS, many ex-offenders are discharged out of the back doors of prisons and jails into the front doors of homeless programs without supports or services, increasing homelessness with few resources to respond; and

WHEREAS, the Prisoner Reentry Initiative (PRI) is yielding results for America's ex-offenders. In the first two years of the program, more than 12,800 offenders have enrolled in the prisoner reentry program. More than 7,900 offenders have been placed in jobs. Only 18 percent of those enrolled in the program have been arrested again within one year - less than half the estimated national average; and

WHEREAS, the Second Chance Act formally authorized key elements of the Prisoner Reentry Initiative (PRI) to help reduce recidivism in urban centers and other areas with the greatest need to help prisoners effectively reintegrate into the community; and

WHEREAS the Second Chance Act offers better connections to housing, employment, and treatment, all of which will reduce recidivism and prevent and end homelessness; and

WHEREAS, the Second Chance Act enhances drug treatment, mentoring, and stabilization services for ex-offenders through partnerships with local corrections agencies and faith-based and community organizations; and

WHEREAS, the Second Chance Act assists states and local government entities in partnership with nonprofit organizations to establish prisoner reentry demonstration projects that will aid in preventing recidivism and homelessness by providing: education, vocational training, and job placement services; coordinated supervision for offenders upon release, including housing that is permanent, affordable and linked to health, mental health, employment, and other support services that provide long-term, community-based housing options; and

WHEREAS, jurisdictionally led, community-based 10 Year Plans to End Chronic Homelessness, encouraged by the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness, would be assisted in implementation by offering strategies and resources emphasizing the roles for every level of government and community stakeholders in

developing Second Chance Act alternatives to expensive police/court interventions and prisoner release into homelessness; and

WHEREAS, such resources will remoralize overburdened police, judges, and jailers,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors endorses the new Second Chance Act legislation that promotes the safe and successful reintegration into the community of individuals who have been incarcerated and supports programs geared toward the rapid re-housing of ex-offenders; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the President and Congress are commended for passage and signing into law of "The Second Chance Act" demonstrating that bipartisan approaches to social problems offer an avenue to remedy seemingly intractable obstacles and are encouraged to support the provision of budget resources to implement the Second Chance Act.

**CALLING FOR REAUTHORIZATION OF THE JUVENILE JUSTICE AND
DELINQUENCY PREVENTION ACT**

WHEREAS, The Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJJPA) of 1974 [42 U.S.C. 5601] provides the major source of federal funding to improve states' juvenile justice systems. The JJJPA was cultivated upon the tested notion that children should not have contact with adults in jails and other institutional settings, and that status offenders should not be placed in secure detention; and

WHEREAS, the current authorization, as amended, of the JJJPA is set to expire in 2009; and

WHEREAS, according to the Department of Justice Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, violent crime among youth increased four percent from 2005 to 2006; and

WHEREAS, according to the Department of Justice, youth violent crime accounts for 17 percent of the total violent crime in America; and

WHEREAS, a recent study published by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) finds that transferring youth to the adult criminal justice system significantly increases crime; and

WHEREAS, in 1998, the Conference of Mayors passed a resolution requesting that Congress implement better funding methods through the States for addressing youth violence and juvenile justice issues; and

WHEREAS, in 2005, the Conference of Mayors encouraged its members to create programs to prevent and reduce violence by implementing parent education initiatives, family support programs, business programs, and faith-based organization enterprises; and

WHEREAS, also in 2007, the Conference of Mayors reiterated it's call for better regulation of the sealing, expunging and releasing of juvenile records, particularly those associated with nonviolent crimes, so that young people affected have the maximum opportunity to become self-sufficient and successful adults; and

WHEREAS, the Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Act is an essential tool toward not only helping our nation's youth but also preventing crime,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Conference of Mayors calls upon the U.S. Congress to reauthorize the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act with specific increased spending flexibility and amounts for the 1) Juvenile Accountability Block Grant Program, 2) Title II Grants, and 3) New Initiatives and Programs Grant; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Conference of Mayors calls on other mayors and Congress to support youth programs with intervention targets for at-risk youth ages 14 to 25 through outreach and service connection and also attempts to link the community as a whole through a media campaign and community mobilization efforts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a reauthorization shall include at least programs supporting job training, education, employment, housing, substance abuse treatment, mental health services and recreation to help our youth realize their true potential.

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING LEGISLATION ENCOURAGING DONATIONS
OF SURPLUS POLICE AND FIRE EQUIPMENT AND MATERIAL FIRST BE
OFFERED TO POLICE AND VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENTS WITHIN THE
UNITED STATES**

WHEREAS, approximately 80 percent of fire departments in the United States are volunteer; and

WHEREAS, surplus equipment and material have been donated by municipal and other police and fire departments to police and fire departments in foreign countries without being offered to sister city fire departments in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the expenses of volunteer fire departments in the United States could be lessened by almost half by such donations; and

WHEREAS, the donation of equipment and material that is paid by the taxpayers in the United States should first be offered or made available to sister city police and voluntary fire departments in the United States before being donated internationally; and

WHEREAS, the City of Hallandale Beach has committed to creating a dedicated website, with the help of sister cities and stakeholders, which would provide a central site for all local, state and federal police and fire departments or agencies to post a listing of surplus equipment and materials available for donation in order to give volunteer fire departments in this country an opportunity to accept that donation prior to that equipment and materials being donated internationally, and encourages other communities around the country to do the same; and

WHEREAS, The United State Conference of Mayors encourages all local and state governments and the federal government to join in this effort,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports and appreciates the sacrifice and patriotic duty exemplified by our brave men and women in the United States volunteer fire departments; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports legislation that encourages all donations of surplus

police and fire equipment and material from local, state and federal government that was purchased or acquired with public funds, including taxes, grants or other public funds be made available for donation by means of a central website to sister city police and volunteer fire departments in the United States prior to being donated internationally; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that suitable copies of the resolution be forwarded to President George W. Bush and all members of Congress.

INTEROPERABLE COMMUNICATIONS FUNDING

WHEREAS, the inability to directly communicate across multiple agencies and jurisdictions during emergencies is a longstanding issue that endangers both the lives of first responders and those they have pledged to protect; and

WHEREAS, the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks upon the United States (the 9/11 Commission) prioritized interoperable communications capacity as a critical gap in emergency preparedness and response; and

WHEREAS, interoperable communications is a complex problem that will be resolved only with coordination at all levels of government and a substantial federal commitment of dedicated, yet flexible funding for localities; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Homeland Security required the 75 largest urban metropolitan areas to create a tactical interoperable communications plan to let police, fire and emergency medical departments talk to each other across agency lines during a crisis; and

WHEREAS, the annual National Governors Association survey of state homeland security directors again identified development of interoperable communications as their top priority; and

WHEREAS, local governments play the central role in developing, implementing, and financing systems to enable interoperable voice and data communications among first responders and other such agencies; and

WHEREAS, local and state governments own and manage most of the public safety system's physical infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, cost estimates for achieving interoperable communications nationwide are up to \$16 billion; and

WHEREAS, federal funding is essential to build, enhance, upgrade, or maintain interoperable emergency response voice, data, and video communication systems; support planning and management; and undertake training and exercises; and

WHEREAS, the "Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007" [Public Law 110-53] established an

Interoperable Emergency Communications Grant Program to help localities and states to carry out initiatives that improve local, regional, state, and national multi-jurisdictional, and multi-disciplinary communications, and authorized the appropriation of \$400 million in each of fiscal years 2009 through 2012; and

WHEREAS, the President's Fiscal Year 2009 budget proposal does not include any funding for the Interoperable Emergency Communications Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, although other federal grant funds may be used for such efforts, Congress specifically established a separate program focused solely on interoperable communications in order to provide dedicated funding used in keeping with statewide plans and the National Emergency Communications Plan, in response to Government Accountability Office report findings (GAO-07-301),

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls upon Congress to provide FY 2009 appropriations for the Interoperable Emergency Communications Grant Program at the fully authorized funding level of \$400 million; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress and the Department of Homeland Security to assure that allocation of interoperable communications resources are prioritized for projects that provide the maximum benefit to the most people in areas at greatest risk.

MAYORS CALL ON FCC TO PRESERVE 700 MHz D-BLOCK FOR PUBLIC SAFETY

WHEREAS, the conversion from analog television broadcasting to digital television broadcasting on February 19, 2009 results in certain 700 MHz spectrum becoming available for alternative uses, including public safety; and

WHEREAS, the FCC in auctioning this spectrum set aside a block of this spectrum ("D-Block") for the establishment of a mandatory public/private partnership to create a nationwide, interoperable broadband public safety network that would serve public safety and homeland security needs; and

WHEREAS, no bidder in the recently concluded auction of the 700 MHz licenses meet the FCC's reserve price of \$1.33 billion; and,

WHEREAS, the FCC has issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking ("NPRM") to ask whether it is still in the public interest to retain a public/private partnership set-aside, or instead provide the D-Block for solely commercial uses; and

WHEREAS, the Commission's NPRM also asks a number of questions on how best to achieve this public/private partnership should the FCC choose to reserve the spectrum for the public safety public/private partnership,

NOW THEREFORE BE IN RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors calls upon the FCC to find that preservation of the public/private partnership to create a nationwide, interoperable broadband public safety network would serve public safety and homeland security needs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that preservation of the spectrum for first responder use must be the leading goal of any actions taken in this docket; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors shall file this resolution with the Federal Communications Commission and calls upon the FCC to meet with local government representatives as a means to best answer to the operational issues posed by the FCC in its NPRM.

**INCREASING CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION STAFFING AND IMPROVING
INFRASTRUCTURE AT INTERNATIONAL PORTS OF ENTRY**

WHEREAS, the Department of Homeland Security's Customs and Border Protection (CBP) has the dual role of facilitating trade and travel while ensuring the safety and security of our country; and

WHEREAS, CBP is the lead federal agency in charge of inspecting travelers entering the country at more than 300 international air, land, and sea ports of entry; and

WHEREAS, CBP is responsible for protecting against entry of illegal persons, contraband, and cargo through our international ports; and

WHEREAS, according to CBP's own staffing model, the agency needs to hire up to 4,000 more CBP Officers and Agriculture Specialists, in addition to support personnel, in order to effectively perform its dual anti-terrorism, trade and travel facilitation mission; and

WHEREAS, the President's Fiscal Year 2009 budget proposal would fund only 527 additional frontline CBP Officers and no additional CBP Agriculture Specialists hires; and

WHEREAS, a recent Government Accountability Office report (GAO-08-219) documented that insufficient CBP staffing at the ports of entry has resulted in excessive overtime and scheduling that contribute to morale problems, fatigue, and safety issues, and that CBP is losing personnel faster than it can hire replacements; and

WHEREAS, inadequate infrastructure capacity at land border crossings is documented to create traffic congestion and delays for cross-border freight movements and personal trips that cost the U.S. economy billions of dollars in foregone gross output, labor income, and employment; and

WHEREAS, current CBP staffing at many of the largest international airports is not sufficient to clear passenger levels on a timely basis, and modeling forecasts anticipate increased delays, including holding airplanes and passengers on the tarmac, impacting scheduling and overall capacity; and

WHEREAS, Representative Silvestre Reyes introduced H.R. 5662 in the 110th Congress that would, subject to Congressional

appropriations, authorize adequate increases in the number of full-time CBP Officers, CBP Agriculture Specialists, and security support personnel over the next four years, and would authorize an appropriation of \$5 billion over five years to improve infrastructure at existing ports of entry and for other purposes outlined within infrastructure assessment studies required in prior law,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports enactment of legislation that would increase funding to assure adequate U.S. Customs and Border Protection staff resources and improve border entry infrastructure; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to increase FY 2009 funding levels for the U.S. Customs and Border Protection, but specifically requiring use of those funds to hire full-time CBP Officers, CBP Agriculture Specialists, and security support personnel solely to meet the needs at international air, land, and sea ports of entry.

COASTWISE CRUISES INTERPRETIVE RULE

WHEREAS, the Department of Homeland Security's Customs and Border Protection (CBP) issued a proposed Interpretative Rule regulating Hawaiian Coastwise Cruises on foreign flagged vessels between U.S. ports of call under the Passenger Vessel Services Act at the request of the United States Maritime Administration; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Interpretative Rule would require that a foreign-flagged vessel on a coastwise cruise, to call at a foreign port for at least 48 hours, with that foreign stop constituting at least 50 percent of the cruise itinerary, and allowing passengers to disembark the cruise vessel at the foreign port before continuing the cruise to a U.S. port of call; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Interpretative Rule establishes burdensome criteria that are wholly inconsistent with industry practice, particularly the 48-hour call at foreign port – inasmuch as the standard port call is six to eight hours – as well as the requirement that 50 percent of a cruise be spent at the foreign port; and

WHEREAS, the intent of the proposed Interpretive Rule is to protect the single remaining U.S. flag vessel serving the Inter-Hawaiian Island cruise trade that according to the Hawaii Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism generates more than 4,600 jobs and generates nearly \$500 million in economic benefits for the state annually; and

WHEREAS, thousands of members of the International Longshore Workers Union (ILWU) are employed at U.S. ports serving cruise ships and whose jobs would be at risk if the proposed Interpretive Rule were implemented; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Interpretative Rule is vague as to the breadth of its application, i.e., to coastwise cruises between all United States ports or applied solely to coastwise cruises from West Coast ports to Hawaii; and

WHEREAS, the Cruise Lines International Association estimates the proposed Interpretive Rule would upend the \$17 billion in national cruise industry spending and put at risk more than 300,000 jobs generated by the international cruise industry,

including jobs held by ILWU at U.S. ports and the local allied industries supporting the cruise industry; and

WHEREAS, CBP's implementation and application of the proposed Interpretative Rule to all U.S. ports would effectively bring an end to coastwise cruises in the United States and cause severe economic harm to ports, the surrounding communities, and local businesses supporting U.S. ports,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors disagrees with the proposed Interpretive Rule and urges that Customs and Border Protection immediately modify the rule and issue a compromise rule that addresses the concerns of mainland ports while protecting the interests of U.S. flag shipping in Hawaii.

CALLING FOR COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM WHICH PROMOTES THE REUNIFICATION OF FAMILIES, PROVIDES LEGAL STATUS WITH A PATH TO EARNED CITIZENSHIP, AND A PLAN FOR CURRENT AND FUTURE IMMIGRANT WORKERS

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors recognizes the economic, social and cultural contributions immigrants bring to their communities; and

WHEREAS, the responsibility of municipal leaders is to protect the wellbeing and safety of all the people residing in their cities; and

WHEREAS, many local governments have passed resolutions, ordinances and policy directives reaffirming non-participation in the enforcement of civil immigration law by city officials and agencies to promote immigrant trust in its police and avert racial profiling and civil rights violations; and

WHEREAS, The International Association of Chiefs of Police *Guide to Immigration Issues* concludes that local police leaders face a growing set of immigration related duties in the face of scarce and narrowing resources; and

WHEREAS, raids and deportations are increasing in scope and number in recent weeks and months, separating families and spreading terror in our communities; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors opposes the separation of families by the enforcement of our current immigration laws and supports the reunification of families that have been so separated, especially those "mixed status" families with U.S. citizen children of which there are an estimated four million children currently in this country; and

WHEREAS, the national political debate on immigration reform has tended to polarize our communities; and

WHEREAS, it is the duty of local governments to respect the rights of and provide equal services to all individuals regardless of national origin or immigration status,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by The U.S. Conference of Mayors acting on behalf of its constituents to call on the President of the United States to issue an executive order to cease and

desist in the execution of all raids and deportations that do not relate to our national security or to criminal activity until comprehensive immigration reform is completed and to suspend immediately all deportations of parents with U.S. citizen children; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors supports comprehensive immigration reform which promotes the reunification of families, provides legal status with a path to earned citizenship to the estimated 12 million undocumented workers and designs a plan for current and future immigrant workers.

U.S. IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS WORKSITE ENFORCEMENT

WHEREAS, the United States is a nation of immigrants, the overwhelming majority of whom are making an important and positive contribution to both our economy and our culture; and

WHEREAS, immigration reform is one of the most pressing issues facing The U.S. Conference of Mayors; and

WHEREAS, the federal government has not been able to pass comprehensive immigration reform legislation; and

WHEREAS, as a consequence of such inaction has been a dramatic increase in identity theft of the Social Security numbers of U.S. citizens; and,

WHEREAS, due to a lack of a workable immigration policy, our country is inhabited by more than 12 million undocumented individuals; and

WHEREAS, many of these undocumented individuals are working in well-established businesses that contribute significantly to the local economy; and

WHEREAS, responsible employers often have to rely on documentation that appears facially valid in order to determine an individual's status to accept employment; and

WHEREAS, the current federal E-Verify system has not been reliable in ascertaining a prospective employee's right to work; and,

WHEREAS, some employers will prey upon undocumented workers, with substandard wages, long hours and unsafe working conditions, knowing these workers will not complain to authorities; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Immigration & Custom Enforcement (ICE) has increased worksite enforcement activities;

WHEREAS, ICE worksite enforcement activities are often the result of "anonymous" tips from the competitors of legitimate employers, thereby using ICE raids to disrupt production; and,

WHEREAS, ICE enforcement activities targeting companies that have had no record or suspicion of engagement in exploitative practices will negatively impact local economies and may drive employers to locate manufacturing facilities overseas; and

WHEREAS, ICE has limited resources and time to conduct worksite enforcement activities;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls upon U.S. Immigration & Customs Enforcement to develop a national policy for its workforce enforcement activities that focuses on employers with a demonstrated history or reasonable suspicion of engaging in exploitative practices, such as violation of wage, hour or occupational safety laws and regulations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ICE not prioritize responsible employers for worksite enforcement activities before accurate verification systems are available or comprehensive immigration reform regularizes the status of workers on whom they rely; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ICE should strive to keep in close communication with the nation's mayors when conducting worksite enforcement activities in their cities.

**SUPPORTING FULL AND DEDICATED FUNDING OF THE ENERGY EFFICIENCY
AND CONSERVATION BLOCK GRANT**

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

WHEREAS, the Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the international community's most respected assemblage of scientists, has found that climate disruption is real and that human activities are largely responsible for increasing concentrations of global warming pollution; and

WHEREAS, over 850 mayors have signed The U.S. Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, pledging their commitment to reducing their communities greenhouse gas emissions by 7 percent from their 1990 levels; and

WHEREAS, the nation has faced unprecedented energy challenges, including rapidly escalating energy costs and critical choices about energy resources that will affect the nation's future economic well-being and security; and

WHEREAS, many cities have been implementing innovative strategies at the local level, including increasing energy efficiency for public and private buildings, encouraging energy independence through the use of alternative energy sources, switching their fleets to alternative fuels and more fuel efficient vehicles; and building alternative infrastructure to encourage their citizens to utilize other forms of greener transportation; and

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

WHEREAS, many local governments have worked cooperatively with the private sector to implement innovative energy saving and environmental strategies that have resulted in energy and cost savings while improving the environment; and

WHEREAS, Mayors throughout the nation have been educating their constituents on these issues and through leading by example have

positively influenced change in their citizens behavior and practices; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors has held three national summits focused on energy, environment and climate change issues that have highlighted these types of innovative programs that Mayors and their local governments have been implementing that have resulted in the reduction of energy use, lower energy costs, a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, and overall improving the environment; and

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors called for the creation of an Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program in its 2007 Mayors' 10-Point Plan: Strong Cities, Strong Families for a Strong America to support local efforts to improve community energy efficiency, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and stimulate the deployment of new technologies, practices and alternative/renewable energy supplies; and

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on Congress and the Administration to appropriate full funding at the authorized level for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program, while supporting higher authorization levels in future years; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors encourages Congress and the Administration to establish a dedicated funding mechanism for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program to ensure that cities have the necessary funds to promote energy saving strategies, promote alternative energy sources, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve the environment.

**ENDORISING 30% RESIDENTIAL EFFICIENCY IMPROVEMENT IN 2009
INTERNATIONAL ENERGY CONSERVATION CODE**

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

WHEREAS, homes and non-industrial buildings represent America's largest energy-consuming sector - using approximately 40 percent of the nation's energy and 75 percent of its electricity; and

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

WHEREAS, the IECC is currently undergoing a review and revision process that occurs once every three years, involving committee hearings in the spring and a final vote in the fall; and

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, at its February hearings, the IECC Development Committee took significant preliminary steps toward adopting The 30% Solution, recommending provisions estimated to improve efficiency by approximately 20 percent over the existing 2006 IECC; and

WHEREAS, this September the International Code Council (ICC), a body made up primarily of municipal code officials, will consider Development Committee recommendations and the input of voting members present and will vote to establish the 2009 IECC; and

WHEREAS, mayors are in a unique position to encourage the eligible code officials from their cities to participate in the ICC deliberations and vote for the full package of efficiency measure outlined in The 30% Solution; and

WHEREAS, the 2009 IECC will strongly influence efficiency performance in the more than three million homes expected to be built in the U.S. through 2012, and success in achieving full adoption of The 30% Solution will have a tremendous impact in reducing energy use over the life of those homes,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors endorses the full adoption of The 30% Solution at the ICC's Final Action Hearings this September in Minneapolis and encourages eligible code officials to attend these hearings and to vote in favor of the adoption of The 30% Solution.

SUPPORT OF THE ENERGY CONSERVATION THROUGH TREES ACT

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors 2006 Summit on Energy and the Environment called for support of efforts at the local, state, and federal level to encourage the public and private sector, as well as citizens, to do their part in conserving energy; and

WHEREAS the utility sector produces nearly 1/3 of the total greenhouse gases released into the atmosphere in the United States; and

WHEREAS, heating and cooling homes accounts for 60% of utility usage; and

WHEREAS, consumer rates for utilities have been rising unabated for years; and

WHEREAS, trees strategically planted around a home can reduce residential cooling costs by as much as 30%; and

WHEREAS, shaded surfaces may be 9 to 36°F (5° to 20°C) cooler than unshaded surfaces; and

WHEREAS, evapotranspiration alone can result in peak summer temperature reductions of 2 to 9°F (1° to 5°C); and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Forest Service estimates that every 1% increase in tree canopy cover results in air temperature reductions of 0.07 to 0.36°F (0.04° to 0.2°C); and

WHEREAS, tree canopy can help cities improve air quality, reduce storm water management demands, and increase property values; and

WHEREAS, over a dozen test cities in the United States have demonstrated net savings of one to four dollars per tree from residential tree plantings; and

WHEREAS, the Energy Conservation through Trees Act will relieve pressure on utility companies by reducing peak load demand for energy, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, protecting public health, and mitigating climate change by reducing carbon dioxide and lowering temperatures,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors recognizes the invaluable role of urban forests to the protection of public health and reduction of harmful greenhouse gases; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors endorses H.R. 5867, the Energy Conservation through Trees Act; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Congress approve and fund H.R. 5867, the Energy Conservation through Trees Act.

SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF SOLAR ENERGY

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors has passed several resolutions calling on all levels of government to pursue environmentally sustainable municipal practices; and

WHEREAS, solar energy and other sustainable practices will support growth in all sectors of our economy; and

WHEREAS, the Solar America Initiative is a U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) effort to make solar energy cost-competitive with conventional forms of energy by 2015; and

WHEREAS, the strategy pursues complementary activities in research and development (R&D) and in market transformation; and

WHEREAS, the goals are to reduce costs through R&D and to eliminate market barriers through deployment; and

WHEREAS, the Solar America Initiative has named 25 U.S. cities as Solar America Cities to recognize partners highly committed to solar technology adoption at the local level; and

WHEREAS, the awards are intended to accelerate solar adoption in cities—our nation's electricity load centers—by supporting cities' innovative efforts with financial and technical assistance; and

WHEREAS, the cities selected are prepared to take a comprehensive, city-wide approach to solar technology that facilitates its mainstream adoption of photovoltaics and concentrating solar power (both produce solar electricity) as well as solar water and air heating; and

WHEREAS, Solar America Cities will lead in the development of a comprehensive city-government approach to solar implementation involving key stakeholders, utilities, and private partners, a widespread increase in solar power use, large-scale solar installations, a reduction in market barriers through activities such as streamlining solar-friendly permitting and zoning, creation of city-level solar incentives (e.g., solar rebates, financial assistance, tax credits, property tax abatements, and/or tax incentives to solar manufacturers that locate in the city), an increase in public awareness through promotions and citywide education, inclusion of renewable energy curriculum material in public schools, and integration of solar energy into

city planning and emergency preparedness plans (e.g., schools as shelters or natural disaster relief),

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the USCM calls upon the Congress to adequately fund the programs related to the U.S. Department of Energy's, Solar America Initiative and its Solar America Cities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the United States Conference of Mayors calls upon the Congress to extend the Solar Investment Tax Credit.

HIGH-CARBON FUELS

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors has previously adopted strong policy resolutions calling for cities, communities, and the federal government to take actions to reduce global warming pollution; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors has declared that climate change could have severe economic and environmental impacts on U.S. cities in the coming decades; and

WHEREAS, the production and burning of conventional fuel such as gasoline, and diesel by motor vehicles, contributes to air pollution, and increased carbon dioxide emissions that have been linked to global climate change; and

WHEREAS, the health of the planet, including its oceans, wildlands, rivers, air, and climate, faces increasing threats from our continued dependence on fossil fuels; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors has previously adopted strong resolutions to encourage clean, renewable energy sources and discourage our dependence on fossil fuels; and

WHEREAS, the production of fuels derived from unconventional sources, such as tar sands, liquid coal, and oil shale, emits even greater amounts of global warming pollution than conventional petroleum sources; and

WHEREAS, the production of tar sands oil from Canada emits approximately three times the carbon dioxide pollution per barrel as does conventional oil production and significantly damages Canada's Boreal forest ecosystem--the world's largest carbon storehouse; and

WHEREAS, the continued production and purchase of these higher-carbon unconventional or synthetic fuels slows the United States' transition to clean, renewable energy sources,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors encourages the use of life cycle analyses that evaluate the greenhouse gas emissions from the production—including extraction, refining, and transportation—of fuels, including unconventional and synthetic fuels; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors supports the creation of clear Federal and State guidelines for tracking the origin of various types of fuel in order to facilitate life cycle analysis; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors encourages mayors to track and reduce the lifecycle carbon dioxide emissions from their municipal vehicles by preventing or discontinuing the purchase of higher-carbon unconventional or synthetic fuels for these vehicles.

**TAX REFORM TO PROMOTE RENEWABLE ENERGY PRODUCTION, ENERGY
EFFICIENCY AND GREEN FEDERAL TAX CODE**

WHEREAS, the United States, as the world's largest economy, must lead the way in responding to the global warming crisis; and

WHEREAS, the United States produces approximately 25% of the world's greenhouse gas emissions but represents only about 4 percent of the world's population; and

WHEREAS, the United Nation's report on Climate Change calls for dramatic action on the part of the world's governments to implement renewable energy production facilities and to adopt as soon as possible energy efficiency retrofits; and

WHEREAS, recent scientific measurements indicate that the polar ice caps and glaciers are melting faster than previous scientific modeling and forecasts predicted; and

WHEREAS, the nation's metro economies represent 85.7% of the nation's employment; 89.9 % of the nation's labor income; and 86.7 % of the nation's gross domestic product; and

WHEREAS, when compared to nation's U.S metros represent 42 of the world's largest economies; and

WHEREAS, historically our national government has used the federal tax code to encourage investment and implementation of technologies that meet priority national needs,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors supports the "greening" of our tax code by passing tax reform that provides preferences to technologies and investments that reduce the emission of dangerous greenhouse gases, while eliminating or reducing those tax preferences that result in such emissions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to adopt legislation that would increase production of renewable electricity by making permanent and expanding the renewable energy production tax credit, the solar energy and fuel cell investment tax credit, the residential energy-efficient property credit; in addition to authorizing new clean renewable energy bonds public power providers and electric cooperatives; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Congress adopt legislation to promote the production of renewable fuels by creating a cellulosic alcohol production credit, and extending the biodiesel production tax credit and the alternative refueling stations tax credit; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Congress adopt legislation to reduce our dependence on foreign oil by establishing a plug-in hybrid vehicle credit; creating fringe benefits for bicycle commuters; and increasing the fringe benefits for public transit users; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Congress adopt legislation to create a new category of tax credit bonds for green community programs and initiatives, allocated to states and cities; extend and expand tax credits for energy-efficiency improvement for existing homes; extend and expand the deduction for existing building energy-efficiency improvements and for smart metering.

SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A "GREEN" ECONOMY

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors has passed several resolutions calling on all levels of government to pursue environmentally sustainable municipal practices; and

WHEREAS, "green building" and other sustainable practices will support growth in all sectors of our economy; and

WHEREAS, the Green Jobs Act was signed into law on December 19, 2007, providing funding for workforce training linked to jobs in sustainable industries such as renewable energy and energy efficiency; and

WHEREAS, a leading cause for increased recidivism, poverty, and crime is a lack of jobs that pay a livable wage; and

WHEREAS, one of the most essential elements of a "green" economy will involve increasing the production of energy from sustainable sources and retrofitting existing buildings to be more energy efficient; and

WHEREAS, the promotion of energy policies based on energy efficiency and on renewable sources will not only help our economy, but will do so in a healthy and clean way, saving our cities billions in ancillary costs such as healthcare, infrastructure decay, climate change mitigation and waste management; and

WHEREAS, according to the American Wind Energy Association, adding 30,000 megawatts of wind energy to our capacity by 2010 could reduce carbon emissions to our atmosphere by 100 million tons; and

WHEREAS, according to a National Renewable Energy Laboratory study, a Photovoltaic system meeting half of the electrical needs of a typical household would eliminate approximately half a ton of sulfur dioxide pollution from the air, and 600 pounds of nitrogen oxides; and

WHEREAS, green jobs and sustainable methods of producing energy make-up an increasing percentage of the economy. According to the Union of Concerned Scientists, 117,000 jobs in wind and solar energy production can be sustained with tax credits aimed toward that industry,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the United States Conference of Mayors calls upon the U.S. Congress to extend the Wind Production Tax Credit, Solar Investment Tax Credit, and the Energy Efficiency Tax Credit as soon as possible so that 117,000 jobs in that sector can be secured in 2009; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the USCM calls upon the U.S. Congress to fund the programs passed in the Green Jobs Act to their full authorization level for FY 2009; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the USCM calls upon the U.S. Congress to allocate additional funding for the development of new green businesses and workforce development programs for the new energy economy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that members of the USCM will take steps to better implement and increase the opportunities for green jobs development in their cities such as: 1) competing for the Pathways Out of Poverty Demonstration Grant to fund green jobs for the economically disadvantaged; 2) institute solar alternative power initiatives that increase the number of solar cells attached to our power grids, implement energy efficiency capital improvements, and make use of other energy forms such as wind power or geothermal; 3) work with the business community to form green job councils in our cities that can best direct human resources to growing green industries.

SUPPORT OF RENEWABLE ENERGY TAX INCENTIVES

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors recognizes the importance of federal energy tax incentives that promote renewable and alternative energy projects in order to help fight climate change, secure our nation's energy supply, and reduce our dependence on foreign source of oil; and

WHEREAS, the renewable Production Tax Credit, to support electricity generation through biomass, wind, geothermal, solar, and other sources; the Investment Tax Credit, for residential and business alternative energy installations; and the Clean Renewable Energy Bond program for public utilities are all set to expire on December 31, 2008; and

WHEREAS, it is recognized that sporadic, short-term extensions by Congress (even allowing for periodic lapses of the Production Tax Credit) has made renewable and alternative energy advocates increasingly anxious as the newest year-end expiration date approaches; and

WHEREAS, these short-term tax extensions deter advanced development and rapid deployment of projects by making it more difficult to appropriately plan for, and adequately secure longer term funding of, renewable energy projects to better compete with more traditional and less expensive fossil fuel energy sources; and

WHEREAS, in order to best promote and advance renewable energy technologies and their widespread deployment, the certainty of a multi-year extension would most benefit the industry, speed renewable project development, utilize clean domestic energy resources, and promote American jobs at a time of record energy prices and local or state commitments towards increasing the use of renewable resources; and

WHEREAS, renewable energy tax incentives are critically important for the emerging alternative energy industry sector, where continued federal funding can help in the development and deployment of initially higher-costs technologies - ultimately driving down consumers costs; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors believes Congress must act now to promote clean renewable energy to best advance the nation's ability to meet a federal climate change program and reduce greenhouse gas emissions,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors hereby urges Congress to approve legislation that offers a five-year extension of renewable energy tax credits, currently set to expire on December 31, 2008, to enable expedited activities that advance renewable energy projects, help fight climate change, and promote domestic jobs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors calls upon Congress to work with local leaders to ensure that Clean Renewable Energy Bond program modifications are made to benefit public sector applicants on a more equitable basis.

METRO ECONOMIES GREEN INITIATIVE:SUPPORTING EMERGING MODELS OF EXCELLENCE

WHEREAS, the Brookings Institution reports that the 100 largest U.S. metropolitan areas contain 65% of the nation's population and 68% of its jobs, generating three-quarters of the nation's gross domestic product; and

WHEREAS, metro economies are reported to gather even larger shares of innovative activity (78% of U.S. patent activity), educated workers (75% of graduate degree holders), and critical infrastructure (79% of U.S. air cargo); and

WHEREAS, while employment within the manufacturing sector has remained relatively constant since 1950, manufacturing jobs now account for a significantly smaller percentage of the American workforce (31% of U.S. non-farm employment in 1950, as compared to just over 10% in 2007); and

WHEREAS, an increasingly competitive global workforce and multinational supply chains within traditional manufacturing industries continue to threaten American economic competitiveness abroad and basic job security and individual self-sufficiency throughout the nation; and

WHEREAS, projections from the U.S. Census Bureau demonstrate that non-Hispanic whites will represent less than half of the nation's prime working-age (25 to 64) population by 2050, with African Americans and Hispanics accounting for more than 90% of total growth in that age range during the next 40 years; and

WHEREAS, persons from these communities are largely concentrated in metropolitan areas and remain disproportionately affected by numerous challenges related to education, employment, and incarceration; and

WHEREAS, metro communities remain beset by disproportionate high school dropout rates, with the EPE Research Center reporting that nearly 40% of the nation's 50 largest metropolitan areas suffer high school graduation rates below 50%; and

WHEREAS, minority student populations are particularly likely to demonstrate elevated high school dropout rates, with African American and Latino students demonstrating graduation rates below 60% nationally; and

WHEREAS, the Center for Labor Market Studies has reported that a black male high school dropout will on average receive nearly \$190,000 more in government benefits than he will pay in payroll and income taxes throughout the course of his work life; and

WHEREAS, programs intended to provide high school students unlikely to pursue baccalaureate study with a means to transition from secondary studies to high-skill employment are a vital means to provide these students with tools for lifelong self-sufficiency; and

WHEREAS, according to the National Institute of Literacy, 70% of all prisoners function at the lowest literacy levels and less than 32% of State prison inmates have a high school diploma or a higher level of education; and

WHEREAS, According to the Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, nearly 650,000 - about 1,600 a day - people are released from Federal and State incarceration into communities nationwide each year, with the majority of these individuals returning to the nation's metro communities; and

WHEREAS, transitional jobs programs have proven to help individuals with criminal records to return successfully to the workplace and to the community, and therefore can reduce recidivism; and

WHEREAS, these programs, along with traditional technical training programs, and emerging green industries provide at-risk individuals within our nation's metro communities with concrete opportunities for long-term economic self-sufficiency; and

WHEREAS, the American Solar Energy Society estimates that, in 2006 alone, more than 8 million Americans worked in green industries, generating \$933 billion of revenue; and

WHEREAS, the Society further estimates that these industries can account for more than 40 million American jobs by 2030, generating over \$4.5 trillion in annual revenue; and

WHEREAS, green industries promote employment opportunities that are necessarily local. As such, jobs within emerging green industries offer sustainable employment opportunities to Americans for decades to come,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors encourages Congress, through consideration of legislation addressing global climate change, to authorize programs within

the Department of Housing and Urban Development to target designated funding resources to metro communities meeting certain criteria to enable these communities to undertake model green industry economic and workforce development programs of excellence; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that, among such programs, the U.S. Conference of Mayors will support federal efforts to authorize and fund the following initiatives:

- Metro Area Green Zones - to support exemplary low-carbon workforce and economic development efforts already underway throughout the nation and establish best practice data consistent with efforts to provide stable employment in emerging green industries to formerly incarcerated, low-income, and difficult-to-employ populations;
- The Metro Area Green Institute - to serve as a clearinghouse for low-carbon economic development efforts nationally, compiling and disseminating data gleaned through the Metro Area Green Zones program and providing technical assistance to local and municipal green job creation/workforce development programs throughout the country;
- Mini-Metro Green Grants - to expand and enhance the reach and relevance of activities undertaken by Metro Area Green Zones and the Metro Area Green Institute to ensure the robust participation of smaller, developing municipalities in low-carbon workforce and economic development; and,
- Alternative Green Academies - to enable local municipalities to partner with not-for-profit organizations, local education agencies, community and technical colleges, and trade associations, and local businesses to provide low-carbon job training, employment opportunities, and other life skills to high school dropouts, formerly incarcerated youth, and students for whom a 4-year higher education is either undesirable or impossible.

FULL PORTFOLIO NECESSARY FOR MEETING CLIMATE CHANGE CHALLENGE

WHEREAS, Congress is currently contemplating federal legislation that would require large economy-wide reductions in greenhouse gas emissions over the next forty years; and

WHEREAS, the achievement of such reduction levels would require very substantial reductions of emissions in the electric power sector; and

WHEREAS, more than 45 million Americans are served by more than 2000 community owned electric power utilities; and

WHEREAS, all aspects of electricity use, production, and delivery must be engaged to deliver reductions of this scale; and

WHEREAS, energy efficiency and conservation are the first and best choices for limiting greenhouse gas emissions in a cost-effective manner, but these measures alone are not sufficient to deliver the steep reduction levels targeted from the electric power sector; and

WHEREAS, further advances are needed for renewable energy, efficient end-use technologies, cleaner processes and control technologies for coal with CO2 capture and sequestration (CCS), increased generation and transmission efficiencies, interactive grid technologies, and nuclear generation and radioactive waste management technologies; and

WHEREAS, these advances must be achieved quickly to assure rapid deployment across the entire power sector; and

WHEREAS, the full exploration of each and every element of this portfolio of reduction strategies is essential if the electric power sector is to achieve its targeted reduction levels, while maintaining an affordable and reliable electricity supply that is key to the nation's economic prosperity; and

WHEREAS, the level of improved performance required from each element of this portfolio is substantial and requires significant investment in research, development, and deployment (RD&D) to commercialize the requisite new technologies,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors supports ambitious exploration of a full portfolio approach to achieving targeted reduction levels, while

maintaining an affordable and reliable electricity supply that is key to the nation's economic prosperity; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges aggressive federal incentives and substantial public and private research and development spending needed to stimulate the technology development necessary to achieve the greenhouse gas reductions contemplated, recognizing that the longer the delay in funding these technology developments, the longer and costlier it will be to meet emissions reduction goals, and that, for maximum benefit, funding and incentives should begin immediately; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges that Federal financial incentives to promote development and deployment of zero- or low-emitting generation technologies and energy efficiency must be made available to all types of electric utilities. Tax-exempt community owned electric power utilities should be able to receive incentives comparable to those available to taxable entities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to pass legislation to establish a workable regulatory framework for geological sequestration of CO₂.

CITY PRIORITIES FOR A CAP AND TRADE SYSTEM

WHEREAS, over 850 mayors across the country representing more than 80 million Americans, have signed the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, which commits to local solutions to address global warming, and calls for strong climate policy; and

WHEREAS, cities across the country are doing their part to confront the climate crisis by taking local action to reduce the carbon footprints of government operations and the community and have made climate protection a top priority; and

WHEREAS, while many climate solutions must be implemented at the local level to truly succeed cities will need strong support from new federal, regional and state policies; and

WHEREAS, the Congress of the United States is considering legislation to develop national climate protection policy, including design of a cap and trade system, which could support local goals and climate protection actions; and

WHEREAS, the US Conference of Mayors has endorsed a federal policy framework that utilizes market mechanisms to promote flexibility and foster creative approaches to climate protection; and

WHEREAS, the US Conference of Mayors has endorsed an 80 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from 1990 levels by 2050 as the necessary and appropriate goal for our nation, region, and state -- and the long-term target toward which our individual communities also should strive; and

WHEREAS, this emissions threshold would put us on a clear reduction path at the levels needed globally to stabilize greenhouse gases in the earth's atmosphere, and is a threshold level informed both by regional climate scientists, such as those at the University of Washington's Climate Impacts Group, as well as by leading international institutions such as the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC); and

WHEREAS, A soft cap, or safety valve provision would allow regulated entities to exceed their emissions cap when the price of carbon goes above a ceiling price thereby undermining greenhouse gas reduction goals by prioritizing price security over emission reductions; and

WHEREAS, the use of offsets or other methods shall be analyzed as an alternative to a safety valve as a limited component of any compliance structure, ensuring real reductions while still mitigating cost impacts; and

WHEREAS, the greenhouse gas reduction goals of the US Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement are economy-wide, and so a cap-and-trade program that includes all major sources of emissions, including natural gas and transportation, is vital to cities' ability to meet their goals; and

WHEREAS, while the electricity sector has been the primary focus of most cap-and-trade discussions, transportation is one of the largest sources of GHGs in many cities; and

WHEREAS, by setting a firm cap on upstream transportation fuels, a cap and trade program provides an important safeguard and complement to other federal, state, and local regulatory policies aimed at reducing emissions in the transportation sector; and

WHEREAS, cities will need a well-rounded package of transportation policies to meet climate protection goals and meaningfully reduce emissions in the transportation sector; and

WHEREAS, natural gas, while a cleaner burning fuel than some energy sources, is still a significant contributor to carbon footprints in many cities; and

WHEREAS, the economic efficiencies associated with, and underpinning, a cap-and-trade system depend on the integrity of price signals generated by internalizing the costs of greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, there is broad agreement among economists that, under a cap-and-trade system, auctioning greenhouse gas allowances will lead to the clearest price signals; and

WHEREAS, free allocation of emission allowances will tend to distort price signals by not fully internalizing the costs of greenhouse gas emissions, thus diminishing the relative value of, and investment in, energy efficiency and lower-carbon technologies; and

WHEREAS, Over 70% of the world's energy is consumed in or by the world's cities and will therefore have to be actively engaged in reducing emissions in order for any national climate protection program to be successful; and

WHEREAS, A substantial amount of revenue will be generated by almost any variation on a cap and trade system, either through allocation of credits directly to sources or other entities, or through distribution of auction revenues; and

WHEREAS, the markets for renewable energy and energy efficiency and new revenue sources created by a cap and trade system allow for critically needed investments in job creation, job training and entrepreneurial opportunities, particularly for disadvantaged communities,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the US Conference of Mayors urges congress to pass legislation that creates a market for carbon through development of a fair and flexible national cap and trade system; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, the US Conference of Mayors supports a hard cap on greenhouse gas emissions that results in real reductions in greenhouse gas emissions consistent with the scientific consensus, or 80 percent reduction below 1990 levels by 2050; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, the US Conference of Mayors opposes the inclusion of a "safety valve" provision, and instead supports alternative flexibility measures to help control costs, such as the use of offsets; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the US Conference of Mayors supports an economy-wide cap, including upstream regulation of natural gas and transportation fuels in the recommended scope for a cap and trade system; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the US Conference of Mayors supports an accelerated schedule toward full auctioning of those emission allowances going to regulated entities; and states its support for reinvestment of auction revenues into conservation and efficiency programs as a priority to offset costs for consumers, and further supports the development and implementation of measures to ensure containment of administrative costs associated with auctioning.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the US Conference of Mayors supports using revenues generated by a cap and trade program to recognize the important role that local governments play in climate protection by channeling some portion of funds generated directly to local governments in support of continued and expanded efforts to reduce emissions, including, but not limited to full funding of the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program; investment in economic and workforce development strategies that help to build an inclusive green economy which provides pathways into prosperity and expanded opportunity, particularly for low-income communities; clean energy, transit and alternative transportation infrastructure; low income assistance; and adaptation.

CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENTS

WHEREAS, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reports that the warming of the climate is occurring, now evident from increases in global average air and ocean temperatures, widespread melting of snow and ice, and rising global average sea level; and

WHEREAS, due to increases in greenhouse gases, temperatures are expected to rise substantially during the next few decades with an average temperature rise of 1 to 2.3 degrees Fahrenheit by mid-century; and

WHEREAS, in recent years, the United States has experienced very significant droughts, reduced snow packs, altered precipitation patterns, severe forest fires, warmer temperatures and forest diseases; and

WHEREAS, global warming will have significant consequences for the United States, causing sea-level rise that will gradually inundate coastal areas and increase both beach erosion and flooding from coastal storms, changes in precipitation patterns, increased risk of droughts and floods, stronger hurricanes, threats to biodiversity, rapidly declining snow packs, and a number of potential challenges for public health; and

WHEREAS, many climate change strategies have initially prioritize mitigation and adaptation, where mitigation refers to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and adaptation refers to the adjustment to the impacts of global warming through reducing vulnerability to extreme weather patterns; and

WHEREAS, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) defines adaptation as the adjustment in natural or human systems in response to actual or expected climatic stimuli or their effects, which moderates harm or exploits beneficial opportunities; and

WHEREAS, specific climate impacts are not fully predictable, climate variability and weather extremes already pose significant risks to our economy, our cities and the environment and could have severe economic and environmental impacts on the U. S. economy, including effects on agriculture and tourism, infrastructure (including dams, roads, water and sewer), loss of coastal areas, changed fisheries and wildlife, water shortages, storm impacts, and soil erosion; and

WHEREAS, the nation's mayors recognize the need to be able to proactively respond to short-term climate change and variability such as drought, forest fires, significant precipitation events, and extreme heat events; and

WHEREAS, adaptation planning at the state and local level can begin to limit the damage caused by climate change, as well as the long-term costs of responding to climate-related impacts that are expected to grow in number and intensity; and

WHEREAS, state and local governments have immediate responsibilities for managing many of the resources and communities that are likely to be impacted by climate change; and

WHEREAS, state and local governments must have the necessary tools to manage the unavoidable impacts of climate change and to make adjustments to existing activities and practices so that vulnerability to potential impacts associated with climate change can be reduced,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to pass climate change adaptation legislation that provides incentives to state and local governments to begin exploring the growing risks from climate change, conduct climate vulnerability assessments that identify the most important climate risks for a particular area or population, identify the response options, and ways to implement them; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to pass climate change adaptation legislation that provides assistance to state and local governments to develop climate change adaptation plans and to provide financial and technical assistance and training to state and local governments to implement those plans; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U. S. Conference of Mayors urges the Federal Government to develop a national climate change adaptation strategy to combat adverse impacts of climate change to the economy and the environment and reduce the vulnerability of the nation's cities to the impacts of climate change and also urges the Federal Government to conduct annually national climate change vulnerability assessments; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U. S. Conference of Mayors urges the Federal Government to develop methods and tools for

studying climate change impacts on communities and integrating this information into state, regional, and local adaptation planning efforts.

**SUPPORTING FULL AND DEDICATED FUNDING OF THE ENERGY EFFICIENCY
AND CONSERVATION BLOCK GRANT**

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

WHEREAS, the Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change(IPCC), the international community's most respected assemblage of scientists, has found that climate disruption is real and that human activities are largely responsible for increasing concentrations of global warming pollution; and

WHEREAS, over 850 mayors have signed The U.S. Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, pledging their commitment to reducing their communities greenhouse gas emissions by 7 percent from their 1990 levels; and

WHEREAS, the nation has faced unprecedented energy challenges, including rapidly escalating energy costs and critical choices about energy resources that will affect the nation's future economic well-being and security; and

WHEREAS, many cities have been implementing innovative strategies at the local level, including increasing energy efficiency for public and private buildings, encouraging energy independence through the use of alternative energy sources, switching their fleets to alternative fuels and more fuel efficient vehicles; and building alternative infrastructure to encourage their citizens to utilize other forms of greener transportation; and

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

WHEREAS, many local governments have worked cooperatively with the private sector to implement innovative energy saving and environmental strategies that have resulted in energy and cost savings while improving the environment; and

WHEREAS, Mayors throughout the nation have been educating their constituents on these issues and through leading by example have positively influenced change in their citizens behavior and practices; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors has held three national summits focused on energy, environment and climate change issues

that have highlighted these types of innovative programs that Mayors and their local governments have been implementing that have resulted in the reduction of energy use, lower energy costs, a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, and overall improving the environment; and

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors called for the creation of an Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program in its 2007 *Mayors' 10-Point Plan: Strong Cities, Strong Families for a Strong America* to support local efforts to improve community energy efficiency, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and stimulate the deployment of new technologies, practices and alternative/renewable energy supplies; and

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on Congress and the Administration to appropriate full funding at the authorized level for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program, while supporting higher authorization levels in future years; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors encourages Congress and the Administration to establish a dedicated funding mechanism for the Energy Efficiency and

Conservation Block Grant program to ensure that cities have the necessary funds to promote energy saving strategies, promote alternative energy sources, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve the environment.

CITY PRIORITIES FOR A CAP AND TRADE SYSTEM

WHEREAS, over 850 mayors across the country representing more than 80 million Americans, have signed the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, which commits to local solutions to address global warming, and calls for strong climate policy; and

WHEREAS, Cities across the country are doing their part to confront the climate crisis by taking local action to reduce the carbon footprints of government operations and the community and have made climate protection a top priority; and

WHEREAS, While many climate solutions must be implemented at the local level to truly succeed cities will need strong support from new federal, regional and state policies; and

WHEREAS, the Congress of the United States is considering legislation to develop national climate protection policy, including design of a cap and trade system, which could support local goals and climate protection actions; and

WHEREAS, the US Conference of Mayors has endorsed a federal policy framework that utilizes market mechanisms to promote flexibility and foster creative approaches to climate protection;

WHEREAS, the US Conference of Mayors has endorsed an 80 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from 1990 levels by 2050 as the necessary and appropriate goal for our nation, region, and state -- and the long-term target toward which our individual communities also should strive; and

WHEREAS, this emissions threshold would put us on a clear reduction path at the levels needed globally to stabilize greenhouse gases in the earth's atmosphere, and is a threshold level informed both by regional climate scientists, such as those at the University of Washington's Climate Impacts Group, as well as by leading international institutions such as the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC); and

WHEREAS, A soft cap, or safety valve provision would allow regulated entities to exceed their emissions cap when the price of carbon goes above a ceiling price thereby undermining

greenhouse gas reduction goals by prioritizing price security over emission reductions; and

WHEREAS, the use of offsets or other methods shall be as an alternative to a safety valve as a limited component of any compliance structure, ensuring real reductions while still mitigating cost impacts; and

WHEREAS, the greenhouse gas reduction goals of the US Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement are economy-wide, and so a cap-and-trade program that includes all major sources of emissions, including natural gas and transportation, is vital to cities' ability to meet their goals; and

WHEREAS, while the electricity sector has been the primary focus of most cap-and-trade discussions, transportation is one of the largest sources of GHGs in many cities; and

WHEREAS, by setting a firm cap on upstream transportation fuels, a cap and trade program provides an important safeguard and complement to other federal, state, and local regulatory policies aimed at reducing emissions in the transportation sector; and

WHEREAS, cities will need a well-rounded package of transportation policies to meet climate protection goals and meaningfully reduce emissions in the transportation sector; and

WHEREAS, natural gas, while a cleaner burning fuel than some energy sources, is still a significant contributor to carbon footprints in many cities; and

WHEREAS, the economic efficiencies associated with, and underpinning, a cap-and-trade system depend on the integrity of price signals generated by internalizing the costs of greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, there is broad agreement among economists that, under a cap-and-trade system, auctioning greenhouse gas allowances will lead to the clearest price signals; and

WHEREAS, free allocation of emission allowances will tend to distort price signals by not fully internalizing the costs of greenhouse gas emissions, thus diminishing the relative value of, and investment in, energy efficiency and lower-carbon technologies; and

WHEREAS, Over 70% of the world's energy is consumed in or by the world's cities and will therefore have to be actively engaged in reducing emissions in order for any national climate protection program to be successful; and

WHEREAS, A substantial amount of revenue will be generated by almost any variation on a cap and trade system, either through allocation of credits directly to sources or other entities, or through distribution of auction revenues; and

WHEREAS, the markets for renewable energy and energy efficiency and new revenue sources created by a cap and trade system allow for critically needed investments in job creation, job training and entrepreneurial opportunities, particularly for disadvantaged communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the US Conference of Mayors urges congress to pass legislation that creates a market for carbon through development of a fair and flexible national cap and trade system; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the US Conference of Mayors supports a hard cap on greenhouse gas emissions that results in real reductions in greenhouse gas emissions consistent with the scientific consensus, or 80 percent reduction below 1990 levels by 2050; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the US Conference of Mayors opposes the inclusion of a "safety valve" provision, and instead supports alternative flexibility measures to help control costs, such as the use of offsets; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the US Conference of Mayors supports an economy-wide cap, including upstream regulation of natural gas and transportation fuels in the recommended scope for a cap and trade system; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the US Conference of Mayors supports an accelerated schedule toward full auctioning of those emission allowances going to regulated entities and states its support for reinvestment of auction revenues into conservation and efficiency programs as a priority to offset costs for consumers, and further supports the development and implementation of measures to ensure containment of administrative costs associated with auctioning; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the US Conference of Mayors supports using revenues generated by a cap and trade program to recognize the important role that local governments play in climate protection by channeling some portion of funds generated directly to local governments in support of continued and expanded efforts to reduce emissions, including, but not limited to full funding of the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program; investment in economic and workforce development strategies that help to build an inclusive green economy which provides pathways into prosperity and expanded opportunity, particularly for low-income communities; clean energy, transit and alternative transportation infrastructure; low income assistance; and adaptation.

CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENTS

WHEREAS, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reports that the warming of the climate is occurring, now evident from increases in global average air and ocean temperatures, widespread melting of snow and ice, and rising global average sea level; and

WHEREAS, due to increases in greenhouse gases, temperatures are expected to rise substantially during the next few decades with an average temperature rise of 1 to 2.3 degrees Fahrenheit by mid-century; and

WHEREAS, in recent years, the United States has experienced very significant droughts, reduced snow packs, altered precipitation patterns, severe forest fires, warmer temperatures and forest diseases; and

WHEREAS, global warming will have significant consequences for the United States, causing sea-level rise that will gradually inundate coastal areas and increase both beach erosion and flooding from coastal storms, changes in precipitation patterns, increased risk of droughts and floods, stronger hurricanes, threats to biodiversity, rapidly declining snow packs, and a number of potential challenges for public health; and

WHEREAS, many climate change strategies have initially prioritize mitigation and adaptation, where mitigation refers to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and adaptation refers to the adjustment to the impacts of global warming through reducing vulnerability to extreme weather patterns; and

WHEREAS, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) defines adaptation as the adjustment in natural or human systems in response to actual or expected climatic stimuli or their effects, which moderates harm or exploits beneficial opportunities; and

WHEREAS, specific climate impacts are not fully predictable, climate variability and weather extremes already pose significant risks to our economy, our cities and the environment and could have severe economic and environmental impacts on the U. S. economy, including effects on agriculture and tourism, infrastructure (including dams, roads, water and sewer), loss of

coastal areas, changed fisheries and wildlife, water shortages, storm impacts, and soil erosion; and

WHEREAS, the nation's mayors recognize the need to be able to proactively respond to short-term climate change and variability such as drought, forest fires, significant precipitation events, and extreme heat events; and

WHEREAS, adaptation planning at the state and local level can begin to limit the damage caused by climate change, as well as the long-term costs of responding to climate-related impacts that are expected to grow in number and intensity; and

WHEREAS, state and local governments have immediate responsibilities for managing many of the resources and communities that are likely to be impacted by climate change; and

WHEREAS, state and local governments must have the necessary tools to manage the unavoidable impacts of climate change and to make adjustments to existing activities and practices so that vulnerability to potential impacts associated with climate change can be reduced,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to pass climate change adaptation legislation that provides incentives to state and local governments to begin exploring the growing risks from climate change, conduct climate vulnerability assessments that identify the most important climate risks for a particular area or population, identify the response options, and ways to implement them; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to pass climate change adaptation legislation that provides assistance to state and local governments to develop climate change adaptation plans and to provide financial and technical assistance and training to state and local governments to implement those plans; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U. S. Conference of Mayors urges the Federal Government to develop a national climate change adaptation strategy to combat adverse impacts of climate change to the economy and the environment and reduce the vulnerability of the nation's cities to the impacts of climate change and also urges the Federal Government to conduct annually national climate change vulnerability assessments; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U. S. Conference of Mayors urges the Federal Government to develop methods and tools for studying climate change impacts on communities and integrating this information into state, regional, and local adaptation planning efforts.

**CALLING FOR ACTIONS AND PROGRAMS TO ASSIST IN ADAPTATION TO THE
WATER RESOURCE CHALLENGES POSED BY CLIMATE CHANGE**

WHEREAS, a warming climate will amplify national water supply related challenges, such as smaller snowpacks, earlier snowmelt, more extreme flooding, greater evaporation, less groundwater, and more frequent droughts; and

WHEREAS, these changes will make it harder to meet the nation's water needs and interstate compact obligations, threaten recreation and agriculture, and increase wildfire; and

WHEREAS, while most municipal water resource planning has been based on past hydrology, water users can no longer assume that future conditions will reflect the past; and

WHEREAS, interstate compacts and state water laws add to the challenges of adapting to changes in water availability; and

WHEREAS, pressures from growth and changing availability even apart from climate change are straining municipal water planning resources; and

WHEREAS, more study is needed of the effects of climate change on water resources; and

WHEREAS, federal funding for water-related programs continues to erode, especially when compared to the looming challenges over Western water supplies and the more than \$100 billion investment in water infrastructure over the past 100 years; and

WHEREAS, timely major rehabilitation, advanced technology retrofits, and extraordinary maintenance of older facilities that must now be completed should address the challenges of climate change; and

WHEREAS, most of the climate-change debate has focused on mitigation of greenhouse gases from man-made sources, with very little emphasis on adaptation as a strategy for dealing with a warming climate; and

WHEREAS, even if CO2 emissions are reduced to optimal levels today, our climate will not begin to react for a number of years into the future,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls for partnerships between federal, state and local entities, to improve current understanding of climate change impacts to water resources and implications for the nation's water infrastructure; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors desires an increase in federal funding to enhance the quality and accessibility of regional climate modeling, maintain and expand collection and dissemination of climate data and support the development of decision support tools that enhance local government's ability to incorporate accurate climate change projections into real time operations and infrastructure planning efforts for the rehabilitation and modernization of existing water facilities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors asks for an increase of federal investments in research and development for new-generation water treatment technologies and new water management techniques to help meet the challenges of climate change impacts to water supplies in the future.

**THE CHEMICAL FACILITY ANTI-TERRORISM SECURITY ACT& WATER
UTILITIES**

WHEREAS, the Public Health Protection and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act of 2002 required drinking water utilities to prepare vulnerability assessment and emergency response plans to address their vulnerabilities; and

WHEREAS, water utilities completed vulnerability assessment and emergency response plans with minimal federal assistance; and

WHEREAS, water utilities filed those vulnerability assessment and emergency response plans with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); and

WHEREAS, water utilities regularly update vulnerability assessment and emergency response plans; and

WHEREAS, EPA regularly audits water utility vulnerability assessment and emergency response plans; and

WHEREAS, since 2002 water utilities have spent hundreds of millions of dollars to complete and update vulnerability assessments, to harden security at drinking water facilities and to implement emergency response plans; and

WHEREAS, in addition to regulation under the Public Health Protection and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act, water utilities are subject to regulation under the Clean Air Act; to emergency planning and community notification provisions under the Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act; and to additional state and local standards for safe storage and handling of hazardous chemicals; and

WHEREAS, city-run water utilities operate in the public interest and are ultimately responsible to the citizens they serve; and

WHEREAS, recognizing these factors, Congress appropriately exempted water utilities from the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Security Act of 2006 (CFATS) and from the subsequent regulation of chemical facilities stemming from that act; and

WHEREAS, CFATS expires at the end of 2009 and Congress has begun work to reauthorize it and to make it permanent; and

WHEREAS, the House Committee on Homeland Security has reported a bill (HR 5577) to reauthorize CFATS permanently that would revoke the existing exemption for water utilities; and

WHEREAS, other proposals to reauthorize CFATS permanently would continue the existing exemption for water utilities; and

WHEREAS, HR 5577 includes language that would require water utilities to use "inherently safer technology" when choosing chemicals to treat drinking water; and

WHEREAS, decisions regarding drinking water treatment methods are complex and are often dependent on existing infrastructure and switching water treatment methods potentially involves massive and expensive changes to drinking water treatment plants; and

WHEREAS, the Safe Drinking Water Act requires water utilities to use some form of chlorine or chlorine combined with other chemicals to treat drinking water; and

WHEREAS, subjecting water utilities to CFATS "inherently safer technology" requirements would place an extreme regulatory burden on city-run water utilities, including the potential for contradictory regulatory directives from EPA regarding drinking water safety and public health and the Department of Homeland Security regarding chemical safety; and

WHEREAS, water treatment plants, by their nature, are generally located near population centers; and

WHEREAS, shutting down a water utility or even a single water treatment plant would create serious public safety and health problems, including, but not limited to serious impairment of fire suppression, sanitation and public health efforts,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the United States Conference of Mayors urges Congress to continue the exemption of water utilities from CFATS; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that should Congress expand CFATS to cover water utilities, they should, at a minimum:

- exempt water utilities from a mandate to use "inherently safer technologies" when making drinking water treatment decisions,

- exempt water utilities from any federal authority to shut down a chemical facility, and
- exempt water utilities from requirements regarding the placement of chemical facilities near population centers.

SUPPORTING MUNICIPAL WATER SYSTEMS

WHEREAS, the United States' municipal water systems are among the finest in the world; and

WHEREAS, high quality, safe drinking water is already available at most public locations; and

WHEREAS, mayors are responsible for delivering safe and affordable water to our citizens; and

WHEREAS, bottled water is regulated by the FDA and municipal tap water is regulated by the EPA and has more stringent requirements for testing; and

WHEREAS, local governments invest approximately \$82 billion a year to provide water and sewer services; and

WHEREAS, bottled water often costs more than an equivalent volume of gasoline, equivalent to 1,000 to 10,000 times more than tap water; and

WHEREAS, up to 40% of bottled water on the market comes from municipal water systems and the bottled water industry generated \$15 billion in revenues in 2006 from U.S. consumers; and

WHEREAS, bottled water often travels many miles from the source, resulting in the burning of massive amounts of fossil fuels, releasing CO2 and other pollution into the atmosphere; and

WHEREAS, plastic water bottles are one of the fastest growing sources of municipal waste; and

WHEREAS, in the U.S. the production of plastic bottles for bottled water currently requires the energy equivalent of more than 17 million barrels of oil per year - enough to generate fuel for over a million cars for a year - and generates more than 2.5 million tons of carbon dioxide; and

WHEREAS, the National City Water Taste Test, which recognizes all of the great work municipal water systems do for its residents on a daily basis, year after year; and

WHEREAS, The US Conference of Mayors, per Resolution #90 adopted in June 2007, has compiled much information regarding the

importance of municipal water and the impact of bottled water on municipal waste; and

WHEREAS, the evidence suggests that banning bottled water from government use highlights the importance of municipal water and decreases the impact of bottled water on municipal waste; and

WHEREAS, The Conference of Mayors recognizes the importance of bottled water in times of emergency and times when municipal water is unavailable,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The US Conference of Mayors encourages cities to phase out, where feasible, government use of bottled water and promote the importance of municipal water.

REAUTHORIZATION OF THE BROWNFIELDS LAW

WHEREAS, brownfields are abandoned or underutilized properties sites whose redevelopment is hindered by either real or perceived environmental contamination; and

WHEREAS, the redevelopment of brownfield sites have been a priority for The U.S. Conference of Mayors for the past 15 years; and

WHEREAS, much progress has been made in redeveloping these sites, particularly after the enactment of the Small Business Liability and Brownfields Redevelopment Act of 2002, there is still an estimated 400-600 thousand brownfield sites throughout the nation; and

WHEREAS, brownfield sites are opportunities for economic development, job creation, and environmental improvements within the nation's communities; and

WHEREAS, EPA has invested about \$800 million in the assessment and cleanup of brownfields since 1995, leveraging more than \$9 billion in cleanup and redevelopment monies - a return of more than ten to one, and resulting in the assessment of more than 8,000 properties;

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors' research indicates that over 186,000 jobs have been created and over \$400 million in tax revenues have been generated;

WHEREAS, the nation's mayors recognize that additional tools are necessary to help accelerate the number of cleanups and redevelopments; and

WHEREAS, the Small Business Liability and Brownfields Redevelopment Act of 2002 was technically authorized for only 5 years, and the need for reauthorization presents an opportunity to re-evaluate and propose improvements that will hasten cleanup and redevelopment of these contaminated and abandoned properties,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Congress should reauthorize the Brownfields Law and make improvements to the law by increasing EPA's overall funding for brownfields grants, beginning with \$350 million in FY08 and increasing by \$50 million annually to a total of \$600 million and beyond; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Congress should increase EPA's funding limit for cleanup of a single site to up to \$1 million and under special circumstances, EPA could waive the limit and go up to \$2 million per site; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Congress should allow EPA to grant eligible entities the option to apply for multi-purpose grants (of up to \$1.5 million) that can be used for the full range of brownfield-funded activities (assessment, cleanup, reuse planning, etc,) on an area-wide or community-wide basis; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Congress should authorize \$20 million for brownfield pilots that demonstrate sustainable reuse, green buildings, and alternative energy and allow use of funds for site assessments, cleanup, site planning, feasibility analysis, and engineering studies related to environmentally beneficial site improvements, such as, high performance/green buildings, green infrastructure, ecosystem restoration, and/or renewable energy production; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Congress should allow EPA grantees that seek to use assessment, cleanup or multi-purpose grants on sites with petroleum contamination should not be required to make the difficult demonstrations that the site is "low risk" and that there is "no viable responsible party" connected with the site but rather replace the "No Viable Responsible Party" language with a prohibition on using funds to pay for cleanup costs for which the recipient of the grant is potentially liable under the petroleum statutes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Congress should create greater flexibility in use of grant funds by eliminating the currently defined set-aside of total grant funding for petroleum brownfields and instead substituting a new "Ranking Criteria" that gives some weight to petroleum-contaminated sites; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Congress should allow local government applicants to obtain funding at sites acquired prior to the January 11, 2002 enactment of the Brownfields Revitalization Act - when there was no required standard for "all appropriate inquiries" - provided that the applicant did not cause or contribute to the contamination and performed "appropriate care" -- for these sites, applicants would not have to demonstrate that they performed all appropriate inquiry; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Congress should clarify that non-profits and related community development entities are eligible to receive brownfields assessment, cleanup, revolving loan fund,

and job training grants. Currently non-profits are only eligible for cleanup and job training grants; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Congress should exempt local and state government from CERCLA liability if the government unit

- o owns a brownfield as defined by section 101(39);
- o did not cause or contribute to contamination on the property; and
- o exercises due care with regard to any known contamination at the site; alternative language would amend section 101(20)
- o to clarify that properties acquired through eminent domain qualify for the CERCLA exemption for local governments involved in "Involuntary Acquisitions."

PREVENTING AND CONTROLLING AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES

WHEREAS, aquatic invasive species have already caused significant damage and are continuing to cause damage to the waters of the United States, harming the integrity, biological diversity and economic health of these ecosystems; and

WHEREAS, local governments can and have taken steps aimed at prohibiting and penalizing the release of aquatic invasive species in the waters of their communities, but local governments do not have the adequate authority, jurisdiction or resources to effective control and prevent aquatic invasive species; and

WHEREAS, many organizations, state and local governments, and businesses agree that the nations' waters and the communities located on shorelines of the nations' waters would substantially benefit from a comprehensive, well-funded federal approach to help stop the introduction and spread of aquatic invasive species; and

WHEREAS, many organizations, state and local governments, and businesses agree that there is a particular need for nationally standardized methods for early detection of aquatic invasive species, standardized procedures for rapidly responding to aquatic invasive species once discovered, effective regulation of ballast water and substantial increases in funding to prevent and control aquatic invasive species; and

WHEREAS, although there has been strong support in recent years for federal aquatic invasive species legislation, and in particular for the proposed ballast water treatment provisions in the "Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2008" before the U .S. Congress, such legislation has not yet advanced; and

WHEREAS, in the absence of federal aquatic invasive species legislation in the U .S., some state governments have already enacted or are moving towards enacting their own state laws and regulations to control such species; and

WHEREAS, the existence of a number of different state and provincial laws and policies that are not necessarily similar or coordinated with each other is not the most effective or the most efficient approach to prevention and control of aquatic invasive species; and

WHEREAS, issues related to aquatic invasive species are urgent and that time is of the essence with respect to protecting the Great Lakes and other waters from their harmful ecological and economic consequences,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges the United States Congress to promptly enact the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2008, including the ballast water provisions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports research into new and innovative solutions to the problem of aquatic invasive species brought by ballast water or other means and encourages the United States Congress and the federal government to continue to fund these important projects; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges the United States Congress to provide maximum funding for existing aquatic invasive species control and current prevention programs, even in the absence of new legislation.

**CONTAINMENT AND ERADICATION OF NON-NATIVE TREE-KILLING INSECTS
AND DISEASES**

WHEREAS, city trees in parks and along streets are critical to the quality of life and livability of America's cities; and

WHEREAS, trees in cities provide numerous benefits including shade, reduced summer temperatures, amelioration of storm winds, improved air and water quality, civic beauty, storm water mitigation; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of their many benefits, cities often plant trees and spend resources to maintain those trees through their public agencies; and

WHEREAS, cities across the country have suffered severe financial and aesthetic losses due to the introduction and spread of non-native insects and diseases, with costs to individual municipalities often running to several million dollars over a period of two to four years; and

WHEREAS, active non-native insects and diseases affecting municipal trees in various portions of the nation now include the Asian longhorned beetle, birch leaf miner, emerald ash borer, laurel wilt, sudden oak death, and the wiliwili gall wasp; and

WHEREAS, the U.S Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA APHIS) is the primary federal agency responsible for preventing introduction and spread of non-native insects and diseases that attack and kill these trees through its Emerging Plant Pests Program; and

WHEREAS, the efficacy of USDA APHIS in fulfilling that responsibility is limited by insufficient resources to enforce its regulations and to revise and update those regulations; and

WHEREAS, states and cities are constrained from establishing laws that exceed APHIS requirements by both international and domestic law.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors affirms its support of the U.S. Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's efforts to address the critical threat of non-native insects and diseases affecting trees; and

BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors calls upon Congress to provide enhanced resources for the U.S.

Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's Emerging Plant Pests Program in future appropriations bills, and

BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors Calls upon the Emerging Plant Pest Program to provide expertise and resources to assist rural and urban communities in order to implement proactive programs to detect non-native insects and other pests and eradicate them before they become widespread threats to native trees.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States Conference of Mayors endorses the Invasive Species Revolving Loan Fund championed by Senator Richard Durbin to aid municipalities in their efforts to fight invasive species, and to replace trees and other vegetation damaged as a result of infestation or eradication measures.

TAX INCENTIVES FOR WATER INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT INVESTMENT

WHEREAS, increasing public investment in our nation's water infrastructure system is critical to meet existing and future demands, ensure water supply reliability, and comply with more stringent drinking water quality standards; and

WHEREAS, Representatives Xavier Becerra (D-CA) and Jon Porter (R-NV) introduced H.R. 3452 in the 110th Congress that would authorize use of "Clean Renewable Water Supply Bonds" (CREWS) to finance water supply projects, including water recycling facilities, groundwater remediation, and both ocean water and brackish groundwater desalination projects; and

WHEREAS, innovative water supply projects that promote water recycling, desalination, and groundwater cleanup activities can help significantly reduce dependence on increasingly strained water supplies; and

WHEREAS, the CREWS bonds are modeled after the overwhelmingly successful Clean Renewable Energy Bond program that supports and promotes public renewable energy projects; and

WHEREAS, the CREWS bonds would provide a creative financing option whereby local public water agencies effectively receive an interest free loan on issuance of conventional tax-exempt municipal bonds, but instead of the agency making interest payments to the holders of the bond, the bondholders receive a federal tax credit equal to those projected interest payments; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated by some industry stakeholder groups that enacting a CREWS bill will, over the next ten years, generate \$7.8 billion of capital dedicated to new water supply projects and that those projects would create 1.8 billion gallons of water per day for annual usage - enough to meet the annual needs of over four million 4-person families.

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors understands the importance in developing new clean water sources while also recognizing that associated capital expenditures necessary to build new water system infrastructure is oftentimes too high to use conventional financing mechanisms to generate capital for new and innovative water supply projects.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors supports the "Clean Renewable Water Supply Act" and urges Congress to enact legislation that would provide a range of federal tax assistance for public water infrastructure projects.

SUPPORT FOR THE U.S.-COLOMBIA FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

WHEREAS, President George W. Bush transmitted implementing legislation to Congress for the United States-Colombia Free Trade Agreement on April 7, 2008; and

WHEREAS, Colombian goods currently enter the U.S. market with few tariffs while U.S. goods entering Colombia are subject to tariffs at a level that create an uneven trade relationship and represent a barrier to the equitable treatment of U.S. exports; and

WHEREAS, the U.S.-Colombia Free Trade Agreement will provide duty free market access for U.S exports, and immediate elimination of duties on 53 percent of U.S. trade with Colombia; and

WHEREAS the elimination of tariffs on U.S. goods through the U.S.-Colombia Free Trade Agreement will create a fairer and more balanced trade relationship that will help the U.S. agricultural, manufacturing and other sectors and create jobs in the United States; and

WHEREAS, trade and economic development are a critical building block for stable and secure democracies, and Colombia is an important and valued economic and geopolitical ally in the hemisphere; and

WHEREAS, Colombia is the longest standing democracy in South America, and the United States and Colombia have shared a long and enduring friendship, a strong economic partnership, and have been and continue to be close strategic allies; and

WHEREAS, over the past decade the United States has appropriated more than \$5 billion in aid to Colombia to battle violent insurgents and curb the production of illicit drugs; and

WHEREAS, the U.S.-Colombia Free Trade Agreement will strengthen civil society and promote continued economic growth and greater stability in Colombia, opening and enhancing market opportunity for U.S. producers of goods and services; and

WHEREAS, cities and metropolitan areas are recognized as the engines of the national economy representing over 85 percent of the nation's employment, income and gross domestic product, and

trade liberalization provides benefits to the nation's cities in the form of increased employment and revenues; and

WHEREAS, the total trade between the U.S and Colombia for 2006 was estimated at \$14.7 billion with imports accounting for \$8.7 billion and exports at \$6.04 billion; and

WHEREAS, 90 percent of Colombian exports already enter the United States duty free as a result of the Andean Trade Preferences Act of 1991; and

WHEREAS, the U.S.-Colombia Free Trade Agreement levels the playing field for U.S. exporters and enhances competition, moving this important economic and geopolitical relationship beyond a one-way preference to reciprocal commitments and full partnership; and

WHEREAS, with passage of the U.S.-Colombia Free Trade Agreement, U.S. exports to Colombia are projected to increase by over \$1 billion; and

WHEREAS, the U.S.-Colombia Free Trade Agreement commits the United States and Colombia to effectively enforce their own domestic environmental laws and adopt, maintain and implement laws, regulations and other measures to fulfill obligations under covered multilateral environmental agreements; and

WHEREAS, under very difficult circumstances Colombia's democratically-elected government has taken exceptional steps to ensure the rule of law, combat narcotics traffickers and the illicit drug trade and rein in paramilitary groups, with the result that security has improved greatly in Colombia since 2000; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors has enjoyed a long history of close relations with the cities and government of Colombia, lending their direct support for Plan Colombia in 2000; and

WHEREAS, the National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators adopted a resolution in support of the U.S.-Colombia Free Trade Agreement in November of 2007; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors has endorsed such free trade agreements in the past, including the U.S-Australia Free Trade Agreement in 2003 and the U.S.- Southern African Customs Union Free Trade Agreement in 2004, and the U.S. Congress

recently ratified a free trade agreement with Peru in December 2007 very similar to that proposed for Colombia,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors supports the speedy negotiation and passage of the U.S.-Colombia Free Trade Agreement and hereby affirms to all members of the United States Congress its strongest endorsement of such an agreement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be provided to the President of the United States, the Chairs and Ranking Members of the U.S. Senate Finance and the U.S. House Ways and Means Committees, the U.S. Trade Representative, the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of Labor and the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

SUPPORT FOR CONTINUING INTERNATIONAL MAYORAL COOPERATION

WHEREAS, Mayor Manuel A. Diaz hosted the Third Hemispheric Mayors Forum, bringing U.S. mayors together with mayors of Central and South America, on June 19 and 20, 2008, in Miami, offering mayors the invaluable opportunity to network, share information, and discuss common challenges; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Richard M. Daley hosted the first U.S.-Arab Mayors Forum, held in Chicago in April 2008, bringing almost 50 mayors from 18 nations together to share best practices, exchange information, and build new relationships, and concluding with the signing of a Letter of Intent between the U.S. Conference of Mayors and the Arab Towns Organization to explore the possibility of future cooperation; and

WHEREAS, mayors across the United States are working to build strong and lasting relationships with their counterparts in other nations through Sister City programs, trade and investment, and other cooperative arrangements; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors cooperates with a variety of mayors' associations in many nations, including Korea, Japan, Poland, Israel, China, Argentina, Namibia, France, Germany, and others; with international associations of mayors, including Metropolis, based in Barcelona, Spain; and with international bodies, such as UN-HABITAT,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the United States Conference of Mayors recognizes and reaffirms the great importance of mayor-to-mayor, city-to-city, and organization-to-organization relationships and commends the energy and vision of all U.S. mayors and those of other countries, who develop and contribute to the strengthening of these international bonds.

SUPPORT FOR MEASURES TO ADDRESS WORLD FOOD SHORTAGES

WHEREAS, global food shortages are heralding "a new era of hunger," according to the executive director of the United Nations World Food Program; and

WHEREAS, out of a confluence of problems -- rising energy costs, natural disasters linked to climate change, rising demand for meat and dairy in China and India, and competition for grain to make bio-fuels like ethanol -- a monumental world food emergency has emerged; and

WHEREAS, as of December 2007, at least 37 countries are facing food crises, and 20 have imposed food-price controls; and

WHEREAS, soaring food prices and food shortages have led to food riots in a number of nations, including Haiti, Bangladesh, Egypt, Burkina Faso, Mauritania, Mozambique, and Senegal; and

WHEREAS, multiple problems exist in the world's agricultural system, and experts believe that the food surpluses of recent decades caused governments and development agencies to decrease support for the improvement of agriculture in poor countries and slash funding for vital research programs; and

WHEREAS, growth of the global food supply has slowed even as the world's population has continued to increase; and

WHEREAS, the biggest cutbacks in donations to agriculture to poor countries have come from the governments of wealthy countries and development institutions controlled by the wealthy nations, such as the World Bank; and

WHEREAS, although institutions such as the World Bank have begun to reverse the trend and are increasing lending for agricultural programs, the severe effects of this period during which support for agricultural systems lagged will take years to be overcome,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the United States Conference of Mayors recognizes the global food emergency faced by the people of this planet and calls upon the U.S. government, governments of other wealthy nations and development agencies to increase financial aid to help deal immediately with the severe impact of higher food and energy prices and the turmoil in global financial markets; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Conference of Mayors recognizes that coordinated and collective international action, led by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, is imperative to prevent the emergence of a larger crisis; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Conference of Mayors calls upon the U.S. Congress and the Administration to recognize and respond to this global emergency by restoring its support for a global research network, particularly programs funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (US AID) to help poor nations improve the indigenous crop production critical to their food supply, and by increasing U.S. support for other international food programs that address this crisis.

**SUPPORT FOR THE ELIMINATION OF ALL NUCLEAR WEAPONS
BY THE YEAR 2020**

WHEREAS, U.S. Conference of Mayors President Akron Mayor Donald M. Plusquellic led a delegation of U.S. mayors to the Conference of Mayors organized by Mayors for Peace, held at the United Nations in New York during the 2005 Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference; and

WHEREAS, despite the recommendation of the U.S. Conference of Mayors, the Administration did not seek a decision by the 2005 NPT Review Conference to launch negotiations on the elimination of nuclear weapons, and the conference ended in failure; and

WHEREAS, since that time there have been no new agreed-upon measures in the field of nuclear disarmament; and

WHEREAS, contrary to its NPT obligation, in force since 1970 to "pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament," the United States is modernizing its nuclear weapons research and manufacturing complex to expand production capability and is developing new delivery systems; and

WHEREAS, the 2007 World Congress of United Cities and Local Governments endorsed "the Mayors for Peace campaign, which lobbies the international community to renounce weapons of mass destruction;" and

WHEREAS, chemical and biological weapons have been outlawed under the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Biological Weapons Convention; and

WHEREAS, there is no technical or economic obstacle to the elimination of all nuclear weapons by the year 2020, and because cities and the entire world should not be held at risk of nuclear attack any longer than absolutely unavoidable; and

WHEREAS, Mayors for Peace has organized European delegations to and activities at the first two Preparatory Committee meetings for the 2010 NPT Review Conference, unveiling the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Protocol for a nuclear-weapons-free world by the year 2020 at the most recent meeting in Geneva,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors encourages its members to participate in the delegation and activities being organized by Mayors for Peace at the third NPT Review Conference Preparatory Committee Meeting in New York in May 2009; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors encourages its members to sign the Cities Appeal being circulated in support of the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Protocol and to encourage other elected officials in their cities to do likewise; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors recommends that the United States Government urgently consider the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Protocol as a direct means of fulfilling the promise of the NPT by the year 2020, thereby meeting the obligation found by the International Court of Justice in 1996 "to conclude negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control"; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors agrees to take up this matter at the 2009 June Conference of Mayors in Providence, Rhode Island.

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING LEGISLATION ENCOURAGING DONATIONS
OF SURPLUS POLICE AND FIRE EQUIPMENT AND MATERIAL FIRST BE
OFFERED TO POLICE AND VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENTS WITHIN THE
UNITED STATES**

WHEREAS, approximately 80 percent of fire departments in the United States are volunteer; and

WHEREAS, surplus equipment and material have been donated by municipal and other police and fire departments to police and fire departments in foreign countries without being offered to sister city fire departments in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the expenses of volunteer fire departments in the United States could be lessened by almost half by such donations; and

WHEREAS, the donation of equipment and material that is paid by the taxpayers in the United States should first be offered or made available to sister city police and voluntary fire departments in the United States before being donated internationally; and

WHEREAS, the City of Hallandale Beach has committed to creating a dedicated website, with the help of sister cities and stakeholders, which would provide a central site for all local, state and federal police and fire departments or agencies to post a listing of surplus equipment and materials available for donation in order to give volunteer fire departments in this country an opportunity to accept that donation prior to that equipment and materials being donated internationally, and encourages other communities around the country to do the same; and

WHEREAS, The United State Conference of Mayors encourages all local and state governments and the federal government to join in this effort,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports and appreciates the sacrifice and patriotic duty exemplified by our brave men and women in the United States volunteer fire departments; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports legislation that encourages all donations of surplus

police and fire equipment and material from local, state and federal government that was purchased or acquired with public funds, including taxes, grants or other public funds be made available for donation by means of a central website to sister city police and volunteer fire departments in the United States prior to being donated internationally; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that suitable copies of the resolution be forwarded to President George W. Bush and all members of Congress.

THE SIXTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL

WHEREAS, 2008 marks the 60th anniversary of the founding of the modern State of Israel; and

WHEREAS, beginning in 1980, mayors from the United States and their colleagues from around the world have gathered in Jerusalem for the annual Jerusalem Conference of Mayors to exchange views and experiences relating to significant urban problems and learn first-hand from the Mayor of Jerusalem about what that historic and diverse City has accomplished and the challenges it has faced; and

WHEREAS, the Jerusalem Conference of Mayors has also offered mayors an opportunity to witness the growth and development, progress and accomplishments of the State of Israel, a young and vibrant democracy; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the Jerusalem Conference of Mayors, 225 U.S. mayors have developed a much greater appreciation of the challenges Israel faces in its continuing efforts to ensure security within the nation and achieve peace within the region; and

WHEREAS, The United States Conference of Mayors greatly appreciates the generous support of the Council for World Jewry and American Jewish Congress, the Mayor of Jerusalem and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Israel which have made this annual event possible,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors salutes the State of Israel and the Israeli people for 60 years of remarkable achievements; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urges continuation of the peace process until peace, security and prosperity can be realized both within Israel and between Israel and its neighbors.

CIVIL AND HUMAN RIGHTS FOR THE PEOPLE OF VENEZUELA

WHEREAS, Articles 23, 24 and 25 of the American Convention on Human Rights govern the Right to Participate in Government, the Right to Equal Protection, and the Right to Judicial Protection; and

WHEREAS, Article 23 of said Convention, "Right to Equal Protection," states that every citizen shall enjoy the right and opportunity "to take part in the conduct of public affairs, directly or through freely chosen representatives"; "to vote and to be elected in genuine periodic elections, which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and by secret ballot that guarantees the free expression of the will of the voters"; "to have access, under general conditions of equality, to the public service of his country;" , and that, "The law may regulate the exercise of the rights and opportunities referred to in the preceding paragraph only on the basis of age, nationality, residence, language, education, civil and mental capacity, or sentencing by a competent court in criminal proceedings"; and

WHEREAS, Article 24, Right to Equal Protection states "All persons are equal before the law," and consequently, they are entitled, without discrimination, to equal protection of the law"; and

WHEREAS, Article 25, Right to Judicial Protection, states, "Everyone has the right to simple and prompt recourse, or any other effective recourse, to a competent court or tribunal for protection against acts that violate his fundamental rights recognized by the constitution or laws of the state concerned or by this Convention, even though such violation may have been committed by persons acting in the course of their official duties"; and

WHEREAS, the Controller General of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela has disqualified more than 400 Venezuelan citizens who aspire to be candidates for democratic election, and reelection, to public office in that country; including 335 mayors and 25 governors, to serve the citizenry of their cities and states; and

WHEREAS, these would-be candidates are being excluded from participating in the forthcoming electoral process by the administrative act of a government agency, acting without regard

and not providing recourse to due process or juridical contest, and as such these individual aspirants are being summarily disqualified by the Venezuela Government's Controller General by extra-judicial and extra-judicial process,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that in solidarity with the democratic aspirations of the people of Venezuela, The U.S. Conference of Mayors unequivocally condemns the restriction of political rights by the administrative actions of a government agency that does not guarantee a process concordant with minimum judicial guarantees established by the Venezuelan Constitution and the international treaties to which it is a signatory, including the American Convention on Human Rights; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors condemns the deliberate subjugation of the Venezuelan Constitution brought about by the Venezuela government's disregard and dismissal of separated executive and judicial branches of government in Venezuela; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors unequivocally condemns the summary and arbitrary disqualification without due juridical process of otherwise eligible candidates for election and reelection for the narrow political ends of the Venezuelan executive branch, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this policy resolution be presented to the United States House of Representatives' International Affairs Committee, the United States Senate' Foreign Relations Committee, the United States Department of State and that representations be made to the official representatives of the Government of Venezuela in the United States.

INVESTING IN AMERICA'S YOUTH

WHEREAS, The Conference of Mayors is committed to promoting the well-being and positive development of the nation's young people; and

WHEREAS, Mayors know how early work experience provides educational and enrichment opportunities leading to academic improvement for millions of disadvantaged youth; and that youth who work are more apt to: stay in school, finish high school, and pursue post-secondary education and/or vocational training; and

WHEREAS, the labor market for the nation's teens has deteriorated considerably since 2000, when 45% of U.S teens had summer jobs, to the historic low of 34% last summer (2007); and

WHEREAS, matching the youth unemployment crisis is the nation's troubling dropout rate: *one in three youth will not graduate from high school with their peers*; and fifty percent (50%) of African-American and Hispanic youth are not completing high school; and

WHEREAS, by 2010 the largest segment of the nation's labor force will be teens and young adults as 41 million new workers enter the workforce beginning to replace 76 million retiring workers; and

WHEREAS, millions of young people are being left behind, disconnected from school and the world of work, and unable to participate in the U.S. economy; and

WHEREAS, only a significant reinvestment in all youth, but most especially those young people with low educational attainment and poor connections to work, will reconnect them to the economic mainstream; and

WHEREAS, the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (WIA) provides the nation's only comprehensive youth system to improve the education and training prospects for at-risk in-school and out-of-school youth; and

WHEREAS, WIA reauthorization has stalled in Congress and it is growing increasingly unlikely that work will be completed on the Workforce Investment Act this year; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Labor's WIA Youth Opportunity Grants represented 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 Administration eliminated the Youth Opportunity Grants program in the federal budget, and Congress did not earmark the Summer Jobs Act of 2008 for funding in the first and second economic stimulus packages; and

WHEREAS, disadvantaged youth have been severely underserved since 2000 with the elimination of a separate funding stream for summer job programs; and

WHEREAS, well-organized summer jobs programs bring immediate and long term benefits to teen workers, their communities, and the business sector; and

WHEREAS, developing skills to be productive workers, learning about various industries, and participating in the adult world of work are all important aspects of cultivating the next generation of workers,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to make a major new investment in our nation's youth of at least \$1 billion to address the unmet needs of youth who have been adversely affected since 2000; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this new investment provide funding for a new Summer Jobs initiative to generate summer job and learning opportunities for economically disadvantaged youth both in-school and out-of-school which includes:

- Promoting career exploration across a variety of industries and fields helping young people learn more about their interests, aptitudes and the ways these can be applied in the local labor market; and
- Providing internships allowing students to combine academic and employment pursuits; and
- Developing connections to local school curricula so lessons learned at work relate to academics; and
- Developing training for youth supervisors, ensuring summer work experiences are appropriate and fulfilling; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in WIA reauthorization legislation, The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to:

- Retain the WIA Youth formula program and authorization funding for the formula program at not less than \$1 billion, with an additional \$250 million to automatically reestablish the Youth Opportunity Grants program;
- Provide flexibility to local areas to allow for a wide range of programs and strategies, including summer jobs, as currently provided in WIA;
- Retain services to both in-school and out-of-school youth;
- Preserve in-school youth programs and in-school services for 14 and 15 year olds.
- Maintain the focus on youth development;
- Ensure that any new targeted grant program for youth be available for both in-school and out-of-school youth, particularly those in high poverty communities and that it must be funded only in excess of the \$1 billion dedicated for the youth formula program.
- Further, ensure funding in excess of \$1 billion to include \$250 million so that successful Youth Opportunity and Youth Offender programs continue to be funded as part of any new national youth program, assuring local support for such efforts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that any change in the youth formula allocation and any formula for new programs like the Youth Challenge Grants be substantially weighted to reflect the population to which the funds are targeted, such as high school drop outs, youth in the juvenile justice system, and youth aging out of foster care; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to incorporate lessons learned from the Youth Opportunity (YO) Grant program into WIA reauthorization and incorporate the YO philosophy of long term, comprehensive support focused on youth development into all youth workforce policies and programs.

STRENGTHENING WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

WHEREAS, the unemployment rate is currently 5.1 percent, and long-term unemployment is higher than it has ever been at this point in the economic cycle; and

WHEREAS, in the month of April 2008, the nation suffered a loss of 80,000 jobs and almost 20 percent of all unemployed have been out of work for six months or longer; and

WHEREAS, the Workforce Investment Act, the law creating the nation's largest program for providing skills training, can provide training for less than one percent of the nation's workforce; and

WHEREAS, the federal government has cut funding for job training programs by over \$1 billion since FY 2002; and

WHEREAS, the Administration has proposed an additional \$1 billion in funding cuts for job training programs in the FY 2009 budget; and

WHEREAS, other developed countries now invest more per capita in workforce skills, have created new entitlements for technical education, and are graduating more people from college; and, as a result, they are growing promising industries, spreading prosperity, and threatening to displace the U.S. as the world's future economic leader; and

WHEREAS, one of America's greatest challenges is to maintain its prosperity, standard of living, and competitive position in the current world economy; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. must create a workforce system that supports businesses to compete effectively by providing talent to fuel an innovative economy and enabling businesses to grow and create jobs; and

WHEREAS, an effective workforce system should serve as the lynchpin to identify where businesses have needs for labor and how to array workforce assets to meet these needs,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the federal government to strengthen the

Workforce Investment Act by significantly increasing its funding to adequately reflect its importance; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the federal government to strengthen the Workforce Investment Act by:

- improving regional and private-sector coordination, and expanding outreach to immigrants;
- Providing incentives for public-private partnerships in workforce development;
- Providing additional training and apprenticeship programs which prepare workers for jobs in the building trades;
- Enlisting regional employers as partners having a vested interest in the success of workforce development programs;
- Providing adequate funding for federal programs which have demonstrated success in developing a competitive workforce, such as summer youth employment, adult education/G.E.D, literacy, Pell grants, TRIO, vocational education, and incumbent worker programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Conference of Mayors calls on business leaders to:

- Invest in workforce education and career exploration counseling for high school students;
- Encourage employees (especially within large businesses) to participate in workforce development programs available in high schools, particularly those with lower college placement rates;
- Work with educators and local leaders to develop appropriate curriculum that is responsive to regional workforce trends;
- Collaborate with state education and workforce leaders to identify key regional job trends;
- Support federal and state standards-based education.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to ensure that public workforce development resources are accessible to all workers in need of assistance—including adults and youth who have been subject to decreasing investments by the Department of Labor, as well as low-income workers, whose access to Pell grants has been restricted; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that within the context of a business-driven, locally-controlled workforce system, data systems and measures must be developed to accurately reflect local service

strategies, economies, and business metrics. Additionally metrics should include not only the measure of an individual's success but also the business's success; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Conference of Mayors encourages local workforce systems to have leveraged partnerships with multiple stakeholders allowing local areas to bring more to the workforce system thereby strengthening it to provide comprehensive, cohesive services to jobseekers.

**METRO ECONOMIES GREEN INITIATIVE:
SUPPORTING EMERGING MODELS OF EXCELLENCE**

WHEREAS, the Brookings Institution reports that the 100 largest U.S. metropolitan areas contain 65 percent of the nation's population and 68 percent of its jobs, generating three-quarters of the nation's gross domestic product; and

WHEREAS, metro economies are reported to gather even larger shares of innovative activity (78 percent of U.S. patent activity), educated workers (75 percent of graduate degree holders), and critical infrastructure (79 percent of U.S. air cargo); and

WHEREAS, while employment within the manufacturing sector has remained relatively constant since 1950, manufacturing jobs now account for a significantly smaller percentage of the American workforce (31 percent of U.S. non-farm employment in 1950, as compared to just over 10 percent in 2007); and

WHEREAS, an increasingly competitive global workforce and multinational supply chains within traditional manufacturing industries continue to threaten American economic competitiveness abroad and basic job security and individual self-sufficiency throughout the nation; and

WHEREAS, projections from the U.S. Census Bureau demonstrate that non-Hispanic whites will represent less than half of the nation's prime working-age (25 to 64) population by 2050, with African Americans and Hispanics accounting for more than 90 percent of total growth in that age range during the next 40 years; and

WHEREAS, persons from these communities are largely concentrated in metropolitan areas and remain disproportionately affected by numerous challenges related to education, employment, and incarceration; and

WHEREAS, metro communities remain beset by disproportionate high school dropout rates, with the EPE Research Center reporting that nearly 40 percent of the nation's 50 largest metropolitan areas suffer high school graduation rates below 50 percent; and

WHEREAS, minority student populations are particularly likely to demonstrate elevated high school dropout rates, with African

American and Latino students demonstrating graduation rates below 60 percent nationally; and

WHEREAS, the Center for Labor Market Studies has reported that a black male high school dropout will on average receive nearly \$190,000 more in government benefits than he will pay in payroll and income taxes throughout the course of his work life; and

WHEREAS, programs intended to provide high school students unlikely to pursue baccalaureate study with a means to transition from secondary studies to high-skill employment are a vital means to provide these students with tools for lifelong self-sufficiency; and

WHEREAS, according to the National Institute of Literacy, 70% of all prisoners function at the lowest literacy levels and less than 32% of State prison inmates have a high school diploma or a higher level of education; and

WHEREAS, According to the Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, nearly 650,000 - about 1,600 a day - people are released from Federal and State incarceration into communities nationwide each year, with the majority of these individuals returning to the nation's metro communities; and

WHEREAS, transitional jobs programs have proven to help individuals with criminal records to return successfully to the workplace and to the community, and therefore can reduce recidivism; and

WHEREAS, these programs, along with traditional technical training programs, and emerging green industries provide at-risk individuals within our nation's metro communities with concrete opportunities for long-term economic self-sufficiency; and

WHEREAS, the American Solar Energy Society estimates that, in 2006 alone, more than 8 million Americans worked in green industries, generating \$933 billion of revenue; and

WHEREAS, the Society further estimates that these industries can account for more than 40 million American jobs by 2030, generating over \$4.5 trillion in annual revenue; and

WHEREAS, green industries promote employment opportunities that are necessarily local. As such, jobs within emerging green industries offer sustainable employment opportunities to Americans for decades to come,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors encourages Congress, through consideration of legislation addressing global climate change, to authorize programs within the Department of Housing and Urban Development to target designated funding resources to metro communities meeting certain criteria to enable these communities to undertake model green industry economic and workforce development programs of excellence; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that, among such programs, The U.S. Conference of Mayors will support federal efforts to authorize and fund the following initiatives:

- o Metro Area Green Zones - to support exemplary low-carbon workforce and economic development efforts already underway throughout the nation and establish best practice data consistent with efforts to provide stable employment in emerging green industries to formerly incarcerated, low-income, and difficult-to-employ populations;
- o The Metro Area Green Institute - to serve as a clearinghouse for low-carbon economic development efforts nationally, compiling and disseminating data gleaned through the Metro Area Green Zones program and providing technical assistance to local and municipal green job creation/workforce development programs throughout the country;
- o Mini-Metro Green Grants - to expand and enhance the reach and relevance of activities undertaken by Metro Area Green Zones and the Metro Area Green Institute to ensure the robust participation of smaller, developing municipalities in low-carbon workforce and economic development; and,
- o Alternative Green Academies - to enable local municipalities to partner with not-for-profit organizations, local education agencies, community and technical colleges, and trade associations, and local businesses to provide low-carbon job training, employment opportunities, and other life skills to high school dropouts, formerly incarcerated youth, and students for whom a 4-year higher education is either undesirable or impossible.

SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A "GREEN" ECONOMY

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors has passed several resolutions calling on all levels of government to pursue environmentally sustainable municipal practices; and

WHEREAS, "green building" and other sustainable practices will support growth in all sectors of our economy; and

WHEREAS, the Green Jobs Act was signed into law on December 19, 2007, providing funding for workforce training linked to jobs in sustainable industries such as renewable energy and energy efficiency; and

WHEREAS, a leading cause for increased recidivism, poverty, and crime is a lack of jobs that pay a livable wage; and

WHEREAS, one of the most essential elements of a "green" economy will involve increasing the production of energy from sustainable sources and retrofitting existing buildings to be more energy efficient; and

WHEREAS, the promotion of energy policies based on energy efficiency and on renewable sources will not only help our economy, but will do so in a healthy and clean way, saving our cities billions in ancillary costs such as healthcare, infrastructure decay, climate change mitigation and waste management; and

WHEREAS, according to the American Wind Energy Association, adding 30,000 megawatts of wind energy to our capacity by 2010 could reduce carbon emissions to our atmosphere by 100 million tons; and

WHEREAS, according to a National Renewable Energy Laboratory study, a Photovoltaic system meeting half of the electrical needs of a typical household would eliminate approximately half a ton of sulfur dioxide pollution from the air, and 600 pounds of nitrogen oxides; and

WHEREAS, green jobs and sustainable methods of producing energy make-up an increasing percentage of the economy. According to the Union of Concerned Scientists, 117,000 jobs in wind and

solar energy production can be sustained with tax credits aimed toward that industry,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the United States Conference of Mayors calls upon the U.S. Congress to extend the Wind Production Tax Credit, Solar Investment Tax Credit, and the Energy Efficiency Tax Credit as soon as possible so that 117,000 jobs in that sector can be secured in 2009; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the USCM calls upon the U.S. Congress to fund the programs passed in the Green Jobs Act to their full authorization level for FY 2009; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the USCM calls upon the U.S. Congress to allocate additional funding for the development of new green businesses and workforce development programs for the new energy economy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that members of the USCM will take steps to better implement and increase the opportunities for green jobs development in their cities such as: 1) competing for the Pathways Out of Poverty Demonstration Grant to fund green jobs for the economically disadvantaged; 2) institute solar alternative power initiatives that increase the number of solar cells attached to our power grids, implement energy efficiency capital improvements, and make use of other energy forms such as wind power or geothermal; 3) work with the business community to form green job councils in our cities that can best direct human resources to growing green industries.

GREEN JOBS PLEDGE

WHEREAS, more than 850 mayors from the 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, representing a total population of over 80 million citizens, have signed the U.S Mayors Climate Protection Agreement; and

WHEREAS, Mayors and local governments are critical when it comes to leading in practical solutions in job creation, climate change and healthy communities; and

WHEREAS, the Federal government has already approved funds through the 2007 Energy Independence and Security Act to stimulate the market for and promote the use of renewable energy technologies through the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program that includes specific support for green jobs, and

WHEREAS, private sector investments in the green economy are growing and can be used to leverage local economic development that benefits all of our residents; and

WHEREAS, the purchasing power of our local governments can increase the markets for energy efficiencies and other green industries; and

WHEREAS, we can invest new local government resources into programs and initiatives that align existing public resources, and private sources of capital and finance, toward these same goals,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, The U.S. Conference of Mayors shall strengthen and make further progress on our stated commitment to improving the environment in ways that grow both the economy and green jobs locally; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, signatory cities shall work to enhance and develop job training programs in the public and private sector that provide pathways out of poverty for our residents by equipping them for high demand jobs in the green economy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, signatory cities shall catalyze green job creation and training by supporting policies that

drive public and private investment in an inclusive local green economy; and

BE IT FINNALLY RESOLVED THAT, we commit to sign on to the green jobs pledge (www.usgreenjobspledge.org) and join together as a movement of local governments across the United States to seize the economic, environmental and social opportunities offered by building an inclusive green economy of high quality jobs and a thriving green workforce.

**URGING INCREASED INVESTMENT IN COLLEGE READINESS AND ACCESS
INITIATIVES**

WHEREAS, only 70 percent of American students currently_earn a high school diploma; and

WHEREAS, minority and low-income students are at greater risk of dropping out of high school and not enrolling in post-secondary education; and

WHEREAS, less than 2,000 high schools (about 12% of all high schools) account for the majority of the nation's dropouts, with 40 percent of all African-American and 33 percent of all Hispanic students attending these schools; and

WHEREAS, high School drop-outs suffer personally for failing to graduate but the nation as a whole also suffers. Every school day 7,000 students become dropouts. More than 12 million students are expected to drop out of high school in the next decade - at a cost of more than \$3 trillion to the U.S. economy; and

WHEREAS, In today's competitive, high-tech economy, employers need workers with the knowledge and skills who can compete globally, with the fastest-growing and best-paying jobs now requiring some postsecondary training; and

WHEREAS, the Federal government must address this national crisis and support schools that help at-risk students stay in school and obtain the necessary skills for higher education; and

WHEREAS, mayors must work with local education leaders, including school superintendents and college presidents, to significantly improve the high schools responsible for the majority of our nation's dropouts and develop programs that will provide students a pathway to higher education through college readiness activities and financial assistance; and

WHEREAS, successful federal college-readiness initiatives, such as GEAR UP and Trio, are only reaching a fraction of the eligible students and continue to be under-funded every year; and

WHEREAS, S. 1185 and H.R. 2928, the Graduation Promise Act would create a federal-state-local partnership focused on transforming

the nation's lowest-performing high schools, including new federal funds for a High School Improvement and Dropout Reduction Fund; and

WHEREAS, S. 1920, the GRADUATES Act would create a \$500 million Secondary School Innovation Fund to support partnerships to create models of innovation in secondary schools to increase student achievement and prepare students for success in post-secondary education and the workforce; and

WHEREAS, the US Conference of Mayors supports the idea that all school-age children who want to attend college should be provided the opportunity,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, The U.S. Conference of Mayors recognizes that to compete with their international peers, American students must graduate from high school with the academic foundation they will need to participate in post-secondary education and succeed in a 21st century economy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The United States Conference of Mayors calls upon the federal education policymakers to work closely with Mayors to ensure a sound federal investment in education initiatives and programs that prepare students for and provide access to college, including increased funding for the GEAR UP and TRIO programs, adopt and fund the Graduation Promise Act and the GRADUATES Act and support financial assistance for all students who desire to do so to attend college.

EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS FOR AMERICA'S FAMILIES

WHEREAS, our nation must use its most effective publicly-funded early childhood resources to strengthen American families and provide our youngest citizens with the best prospects for a productive and rewarding future; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors has consistently supported Head Start and subsidized child care and pre-kindergarten programs; and

WHEREAS, a comprehensive approach to these early childhood care and education services under the leadership of chief local elected officials will help keep America's cities working, expand parent choice and promote quality care for all children; and

WHEREAS, the availability, affordability and accessibility of these programs are vital for millions of families struggling to cope with the rising cost of everyday essentials, and are the key factor in their being able to continue working; and

WHEREAS, approximately 63 percent of the nation's children under 5 are in nonparental care during part or all of the day while their parents work; and

WHEREAS, according to 2005 data from the Bureau of the Census, nearly 12,000,000 children under the age of 5 are in some type of child care arrangement; and

WHEREAS, almost 80 percent of an individual's total brain development occurs before the age of five; and

WHEREAS, millions of low-income children could benefit from high-quality child care; in 2007, 43 percent of America's children under age 6 lived in families with incomes below 200 percent of poverty; and

WHEREAS, only 30.5 percent of Hispanic 3 year olds attend center-based preschool education programs and 45.8 percent of non-Hispanic children; and

WHEREAS, students who have attended quality preschool programming have less grade retention and increased high school

graduation rates when compared to those who have not attended;
and

WHEREAS, the Head Start program for over four decades has successfully delivered comprehensive early childhood education, health and social services, and has a proud history of bipartisan support in Congress; and

WHEREAS, almost one million of America's most at-risk children and their families currently depend on Head Start programs for a solid foundation for their future, for their first educational experiences, for immunizations, dental and health care, for learning social skills and good nutrition habits; and

WHEREAS, young adults who participated in quality early childhood education programs were arrested less often, had fewer births out of wedlock, and were less likely to use welfare than their peers who did not participate; and

WHEREAS, one-third more at-risk children who attended a quality early childhood program graduated from high school than those who did not attend; and

WHEREAS, these publicly-funded early childhood programs are locally-run and locally-focused, help educate and care for our children, improve and enrich the lives of their parents and siblings, and engage and benefit the residents, organizations and institutions of the neighborhoods and cities in which they operate,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors urges federal, state, and local governments to invest in expanding access to quality early childhood care and education; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to fully fund the Head Start program and the Child Care and Development Block Grant so that all eligible children can have access to these highly valuable early childhood development and enrichment services; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Conference believes that investing in quality, affordable child care is one of the most cost-effective economic stimulus measures to lessen the financial burden for our working families, reduce public assistance costs and move families out of poverty; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that low-income families' co-payments for publicly-funded child care be set at appropriate levels that do not present a significant barrier to access. Currently, low-income families spend as much as 18% of their annual income on their child care co-payment while the average American family spends only 9% on child care--a major impediment for those struggling to stay afloat in today's economy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Congress and the Executive Branch recognize how universally Head Start, child care and preschool programs are melded and leveraged at the local level to meet the early childhood needs of families and communities, and that they acknowledge and support this beneficial coordination by providing sufficient administrative and financial flexibility in these programs.

INCREASING ACCESS TO QUALITY PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS

WHEREAS, 20 percent of children entering kindergarten lack the social and emotional skills necessary for classroom learning; and

WHEREAS, less than half of children in poverty attend preschool at ages 3 and 4; and

WHEREAS, children of families with modest incomes, slightly below the average, participate less in preschool education than families in poverty; and

WHEREAS, only 30.5 percent of Hispanic 3 year olds attend center-based preschool education programs and 45.8 percent of non-Hispanic children; and

WHEREAS, almost 80 percent of total brain development occurs before the age of five; and

WHEREAS, children attending high quality preschool programs are engaged in early literacy development training; and

WHEREAS, students who have attended quality preschool programming have less grade retention and increased high school graduation rates when compared to those who have not attended; and

WHEREAS, students having attended preschool programs are less likely to smoke and are more likely to make better personal health decisions; and

WHEREAS, young adults who participated in quality early childhood education programs were arrested less often, had fewer births out of wedlock, and were less likely to use welfare than their peers who did not participate; and

WHEREAS, high quality preschool programs lead to decreased crime and delinquency rates,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors urges federal, state, and local governments to invest in expanding access to quality preschool education; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Conference of Mayors believes that the extent of preschool education's impact depends on both quality resources for students and the professional development of teachers, paraprofessionals and staff in early education centers.

INCREASING ACCESS TO QUALITY AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS

WHEREAS, after-school tutoring increases the academic achievement of students on state standardized tests; and

WHEREAS, after-school programs provide extracurricular activities that expose students to arts, culture, sports, leadership development, and career exploration opportunities; and

WHEREAS, after-school programs provide constructive activities, supervision, and safety for students outside of school hours; and

WHEREAS, after-school programs participation leads to increased school attendance and graduation rates among students; and

WHEREAS, after-school programs promote personal skills and social development of students,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors calls for federal, state and local levels of government to support cities and their districts in building and investing in quality after-school programming by:

- o Creating grant opportunities for building city-wide after school initiatives to encourage access to all K-12 students;
- o Providing support and incentives for professional development training for staff and paraprofessionals; and
- o Encouraging the development of evaluations to gauge the impact of after-school programs and to identify additional needs, necessary enhancements, and supports

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Conference of Mayors encourages collaboration among government agencies, non-profit organizations and the business community to develop after-school programming.

MAYORAL LEADERSHIP AND INVOLVEMENT IN EDUCATION

WHEREAS, cities are beginning to redefine their roles in education; and

WHEREAS, mayors are increasing their interest and engagement in education; and

WHEREAS, mayoral involvement includes both mayors with and without control of their school districts; and

WHEREAS, approximately 3 million students live in cities with formal mayoral control and over 50 million do not; and

WHEREAS, districts under mayoral control have shown the greatest academic improvements in low performing schools; and

WHEREAS, mayoral control has led to increased spending in support services in their district budgets; and

WHEREAS, mayoral engagement leads to new visions in education for a city's student population; and

WHEREAS, mayors use their bully pulpit to build civic capacity among stakeholders across government, non-profit, and business sectors to create education initiatives,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the United States Conference of Mayors urges state and local governments to encourage the engagement of mayors in education in both circumstances where there is mayoral control and informal mayoral engagement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors recognized and supports the rightful role of mayors to do what needs to be done to promote the interests of public school student and parents, and the schools, align the efforts of the city and the school system, and improve the lives, education outcomes and opportunities of the children who attend public schools; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports mayoral leadership and involvement in education that makes a positive difference in the quality of teaching and learning in the city's schools, whether through direct forms of involvement or informal means; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors fully supports a myriad of choices in selecting the level of mayoral leadership and involvement in education including utilization of the bully pulpit to build political support for education improvement that provides the impetus school districts need to speed reforms; fostering greater student achievement; providing greater visibility to important issues which forces decisions to be made; creating programs when needed; increasing public participation; working to enhance funding and resources; and setting new priorities when necessary.

SUPPORT FOR TEACH FOR AMERICA

WHEREAS, The educational inequity that persists along socio-economic lines is our nation's greatest domestic challenge; and

WHEREAS, the mission of Teach For America is to enlist our nation's most promising future leaders in the movement to eliminate educational inequity; and

WHEREAS, Teach For America recruits, selects, prepares and develops outstanding recent graduates of all majors and career interests to commit two years to teach in urban and rural public schools; and

WHEREAS, through their teaching experience, Teach For America Corps Members gain added commitment to address the problem, and insight about real solutions;

WHEREAS, Teach For America alumni become leaders in education and across all sectors, where they attack the challenges of poverty and build the capacity of school systems; and

WHEREAS, since its inception in 1990, the Teach For America network has grown to include more than 17,000 individuals, including some 5,000 corps members currently teaching in 26 urban and rural communities; and

WHEREAS, rigorous research studies conducted by Mathematica Policy Research, Inc. and the Urban Institute have demonstrated that Teach For America corps members have a positive impact on student achievement; and

WHEREAS, a significant and growing number of Teach For America alumni hold leadership roles—as lead teachers, principals, nonprofit directors, school board members, and social entrepreneurs—in high-need communities across the country.; and

WHEREAS, Teach For America is in the midst of an aggressive growth plan to maximize the impact of its corps members and alumni; and

WHEREAS, public support of Teach For America is critical to achieving this goals,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors urges federal, state, and local governments to increase their investment in Teach For America so that it may grow to scale and build a truly effective movement to eliminate educational inequity.

**EXPAND THE EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT TO BETTER ACCOMMODATE
WORKING FAMILIES AND INDIVIDUALS**

WHEREAS, the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is the nation's largest wage support for low-income workers; and

WHEREAS, while the EITC is an effective support for many low-income workers, it does not provide needed assistance to most low-wage childless workers and noncustodial parents; and

WHEREAS, the broad expansion would be used to encourage and incentivize work for those populations that otherwise would not substantially benefit from the EITC; and

WHEREAS, studies show that non-custodial fathers who earn more, pay more child support, visit their children more often and are more likely to marry; and

WHEREAS, expanding EITC to non-custodial parents that are paying child support encourages both work and responsible parenting; and

WHEREAS, waiting until age 25, as the current EITC for singles does, may unnecessarily penalize young, non-college-bound workers who are supporting families; and

WHEREAS, currently, if a couple is married both parents' earnings are counted when calculating the EITC, therefore, married families receive significantly less EITC benefits than unmarried couples with children, which creates a marriage penalty; and

WHEREAS, current EITC policy disadvantages low-income married families compared to single parent families and it also discourages couples who otherwise might marry; and

WHEREAS, eliminating the EITC marriage penalty for low-income workers will strengthen American families; and

WHEREAS, public policy that supports low-income working individuals and families and encourages work strengthens American society; and

WHEREAS, since EITC is not indexed to protect against inflation, its value to low-income workers becomes eroded over time,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to reform the Earned Income Tax Credit so that the benefits available to lower income families and individuals will be increased, simplified, and easier to access; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Congress substantially expand the EITC amount by tripling it so that it better rewards hard working, lower income families; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Congress expand the eligibility for single adults by significantly increasing the maximum earnings cap for those workers from \$12,000 to \$18,000; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Congress expand the eligibility for non-custodial parents who are paying child support by significantly increasing the maximum earnings cap for those workers from \$12,000 to \$18,000; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Congress ensure that the EITC encourages an increased attachment to the workforce; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Congress should lower the age of eligibility for the EITC from 25 years of age to 21 years of age with the exception of making payments to full-time college students who often have other means of support; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Congress should increase benefits for working single adults and non-custodial parents by increasing the phase-in phase-out rate; and.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Congress allow families with married parents to file for EITC separately and allow the parent who claims the children to receive the EITC rates for families and allow the other parent to receive the new EITC rate for single individuals, and thereby alleviate the "marriage penalty"; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Congress index the EITC to the minimum wage.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

WHEREAS, there are over 5 million English Language Learners (ELL) enrolled in Pre-k through 12th grade classes; and

WHEREAS, there is a need to help ELL students build oral English skills to verbalize conceptual understandings; and

WHEREAS, there is a need to empower students and communities to overcome the challenges of language barriers; and

WHEREAS, by the year 2010, over thirty percent of all school-age children will come from homes in which the primary language is not English,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors encourages federal, state, and local governments to support educational initiatives geared towards addressing the needs of ELL students and the related challenges it presents to districts and communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Conference of Mayors deems city wide multi-cultural events and programs as tools that help to create a supportive environment for ELL students to both share and learn of various cultural backgrounds.

SUPPORT FOR CRADLE TO PRISON PIPELINE INITIATIVE

WHEREAS, tens of thousands of youth are funneled down life paths that lead to arrest, conviction, incarceration and even death; and

WHEREAS, a Black boy born in 2001 has a 1 in 3 chance of going to prison in his lifetime; a Latino boy a 1 in 6 chance; and a White boy a 1 in 17 chance. A Black girl born in 2001 has a 1 in 17 chance of going to prison in her lifetime; a Latino girl a 1 in 45 chance; and a White girl a 1 in 111 chance; and

WHEREAS, poverty, exacerbated by race, is the largest driving force behind the *Cradle to Prison Pipeline* crisis, with almost 13 million, or 1 in 6 children in America living in poverty, almost half of whom (5.5 million) live in extreme poverty; and

WHEREAS, 1 in 4 Latino children and 1 in 3 Black children are poor; and

WHEREAS, the number of uninsured children from birth through age 18 rose to 9.4 million in 2006; and

WHEREAS, Latino children are three times and Black children are almost twice as likely to be uninsured as White children; and

WHEREAS, the importance of the early years is dramatically underscored in a U.S. Department of Education study which found that Black and Hispanic children were substantially behind when they entered kindergarten; and

WHEREAS, 86 percent of Black, 83 percent of Latino and 58 percent of White 4th graders cannot read at grade level; and

WHEREAS, 89 percent of Black, 85 percent of Latino and 59 percent of White 8th graders cannot do grade level math; and

WHEREAS, only 48,000 Black males earn a bachelor's degree each year, but an estimated 1 in 3 Black men ages 20-29 is under correctional supervision or control; and

WHEREAS, one-size-fits-all zero tolerance school discipline policies are transforming schools into a major point of entry into the juvenile justice system as children are increasingly

arrested on school grounds for subjectively and loosely defined behaviors; and

WHEREAS, a child is abused or neglected every 36 seconds but four in ten of the children who are confirmed abused or neglected get no help at all; and

WHEREAS, although they comprise only 16 percent of all children, Black children represent 32 percent of the foster care population; and

WHEREAS, a Congressional study found 15,000 children in juvenile detention facilities, some as young as 7 years old, solely because community mental health services were unavailable; and

WHEREAS, children who age out of foster care are less likely to graduate from high school or college, and experience more serious mental health problems, including post-traumatic stress disorder, than children generally and they are less likely to receive adequate health and mental health care, and are more likely to experience homelessness, and to be involved in the criminal justice system; and

WHEREAS, alcohol and other substance abuse treatment for youth and for parents and adults is in too short supply; and

WHEREAS, Black youth are about four times as likely as their White peers to be incarcerated; and

WHEREAS, most juvenile correctional facility programs focus on punishment rather than treatment and rehabilitation, often creating environments that further harden youth and makes it more difficult for them to productively reintegrate into their communities; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Conference of Mayors is committed to fighting for policies that put children on track to a productive adulthood and against the criminalization of children at younger and younger ages and urge the President of the United States and Congress to; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Conference of Mayors is committed to ending poverty through investments in high quality education for every child, livable wages for families, income supplements like the Earned Income and Child Tax Credits, job training and job creation, and work supports like child care and health coverage; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Conference of Mayors is committed to ensuring every child and pregnant woman has access to affordable, seamless, comprehensive health and mental health coverage and services; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Conference of Mayors is committed to making early childhood development programs accessible to every child by ensuring such programs are affordable, available and of high quality; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Conference of Mayors is committed to helping each child reach his/her full potential and succeed in work and life by ensuring our schools have adequate resources to provide high quality education to every child; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Conference of Mayors is committed to expanding prevention and specialized treatment services for children and their parents, connect children to caring permanent families, improve the quality of the child welfare workforce and increase accountability for results for children; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Conference of Mayors is committed to reducing detention and incarceration by increasing investment in prevention and early intervention strategies, such as access to quality early childhood development and education services and to the health and mental health care children need for healthy development.

**IN SUPPORT OF FULL FUNDING AND 'BEST PRACTICE' IMPLEMENTATION OF
THE SECOND CHANCE ACT**

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors has long established policy on the reintegration of ex-offenders covering the last ten years; and

WHEREAS, in 1998, the USCM called upon the Federal Government to implement better funding methods through the States for addressing youth violence and juvenile justice issues; and

WHEREAS, in 2005, the USCM adopted policy supporting passage of the Second Chance Act as well as encouraging the efforts of faith-based and community initiatives to aid the reentry community; and

WHEREAS, in 2007, the USCM made its boldest statement to date on reentry concerns by outlining specific actions that should be taken by all levels of government to provide ex-offenders with greater opportunities to attain self-sufficiency; and

WHEREAS, in 2007, the USCM reiterated its call for better regulation of the sealing, expunging and releasing of juvenile records, particularly those associated with nonviolent crimes, so that young people affected have the maximum opportunity to become self-sufficient, successful adults; and

WHEREAS, these policies have taken on added significance thanks to the successful passage and signing into federal law of the "Second Chance Act of 2007." Now, there exists federal authorization for ex-offender efforts that have been championed by mayors for years; and

WHEREAS, the Second Chance Act endorses a more comprehensive approach to addressing reentry, requiring collaboration amongst federal agencies such as DOJ, HHS, and DOL, as well as state/local government and private service providers; and

WHEREAS, the Second Chance Act also helps to bridge the nexus between work and reentry by collapsing barriers to institutional aid experienced by those attempting to reenter society, including, for example, bans of financial assistance for higher education, HUD's 'one-strike-and-you're-out' policy, and a lifetime ban on TANF and food stamp benefits for ex-offenders with certain convictions; and

WHEREAS, the Second Chance Act contains several critical authorizations for fiscal years 2009 and 2010 such as \$55 million for Adult and Juvenile Offender State/Local Reentry Demonstration Projects; \$10 million for state/local family-based abuse treatment programs; \$10 million for state/local evaluation efforts of educational methods at prisons, jails, and juvenile facilities; \$15 million for state/local governments toward the Reentry Substance Abuse and Criminal Justice Collaboration Program; \$10 million for state/local governments toward the Technology Careers Training Program; \$15 million for nonprofit organizations toward Mentoring Programs; and

WHEREAS, Section 101 of the Second Chance Act requires that each local government applicant develop a comprehensive strategic reentry plan that contains annual and five-year performance outcomes,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the United States Conference of Mayors calls upon the U.S. Congress to fund the Second Chance Act for fiscal years 2009 and 2010 at the full authorized amount; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the USCM calls upon the U.S. Congress to begin discussions on a reauthorization of the Second Chance Act upon the convening of the 111th Congress for an additional period of more than a two years; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the USCM Ex-Offender Task Force work in close coordination with the Second Chance Act's National Resource Center, assisting the Center in meeting its mandate of collecting data and information on best practices in reentry programming and partnering with the Center in disseminating 'best practice' knowledge to state and local governments; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that mayors commit to assessing and reducing the barriers that exist in their own municipal regulations to hiring, promoting, and providing increased compensation opportunities for ex-offenders in city-paid positions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the USCM calls upon the U.S. Department of Labor to assess each state's obstructions to employing ex-offenders and list those obstructions in a timely publication that can be used by state and local governments to reduce such impediments.

**CONTAINMENT AND ERADICATION OF NON-NATIVE TREE-KILLING INSECTS
AND DISEASES:**

WHEREAS, city trees in parks and along streets are critical to the quality of life and livability of America's cities; and

WHEREAS, trees in cities provide numerous benefits including shade, reduced summer temperatures, amelioration of storm winds, improved air and water quality, civic beauty, storm water mitigation; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of their many benefits, cities often plant trees and spend resources to maintain those trees through their public agencies; and

WHEREAS, cities across the country have suffered severe financial and aesthetic losses due to the introduction and spread of non-native insects and diseases, with costs to individual municipalities often running to several million dollars over a period of two to four years; and

WHEREAS, active non-native insects and diseases affecting municipal trees in various portions of the nation now include the Asian longhorned beetle, birch leaf miner, emerald ash borer, laurel wilt, sudden oak death, and the wiliwili gall wasp; and

WHEREAS, the U.S Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA APHIS) is the primary federal agency responsible for preventing introduction and spread of non-native insects and diseases that attack and kill these trees through its Emerging Plant Pests Program; and

WHEREAS, the efficacy of USDA APHIS in fulfilling that responsibility is limited by insufficient resources to enforce its regulations and to revise and update those regulations; and

WHEREAS, states and cities are constrained from establishing laws that exceed APHIS requirements by both international and domestic law.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors affirms its support of the U.S. Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's efforts to address the critical threat of non-native insects and diseases affecting trees; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors calls upon Congress to provide enhanced resources for the U.S. Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's Emerging Plant Pests Program in future appropriations bills, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors Calls upon the Emerging Plant Pest Program to provide expertise and resources to assist rural and urban communities in order to implement proactive programs to detect non-native insects and other pests and eradicate them before they become widespread threats to native trees.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States Conference of Mayors endorses the Invasive Species Revolving Loan Fund championed by Senator Richard Durbin to aid municipalities in their efforts to fight invasive species, and to replace trees and other vegetation damaged as a result of infestation or eradication measures.

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 (NEA), National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), and the Office of Museum Services (OMS) within the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) are the primary federal agencies that provide federal funding for the arts, humanities and museum programs, activities, and efforts in the cities and states of America; and

WHEREAS, the NEA's and the NEH's 43 years of promoting cultural heritage and vitality throughout the nation has built a cultural infrastructure in this nation of arts and humanities agencies in every state, more than 40,000 nonprofit arts organizations, and 5,000 local arts agencies in cities throughout the country; and

WHEREAS, federal funding leverages up to 7 times more 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 local arts agencies in America's cities and counties and more than \$800 million annually in local government funding and more than \$350 million in state 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 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 through its Challenge America grant program; and

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

WHEREAS, the President has proposed a \$16 million decrease in funding for the NEA, 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; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the United States Conference of Mayors reaffirms its support of the National Endowment for the Arts (and specifically the valuable Challenge America program), National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Office of Museum Services within the Institute of Museum and Library Services and calls upon Congress to restore full funding for these agencies in the FY'09 appropriations bills.

JAZZ APPRECIATION

WHEREAS, jazz is an original American art form that affirms the noblest aspirations of our national character, individual discipline, perseverance, and innovation; and

WHEREAS, Jazz has produced some of America's leading creative artists and ranks as one of America's greatest exports to the world; and

WHEREAS, jazz has inspired dancers, choreographers, poets, novelists, filmmakers, classical composers, and musicians in many other kinds of music; and

WHEREAS, The United States Conference of Mayors members participated in Jazz Appreciation Month this past April; and

WHEREAS, jazz has spoken eloquently of freedom for people in the United States and abroad, and has become an international language that bridges differences and brings people of all races, ages, and backgrounds together; and

WHEREAS, we honor and recognize the outstanding work that all jazz artists, educators, and enthusiasts present; and

WHEREAS, the month of April 2009 has been designated as Jazz Appreciation Month, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the United States Conference of Mayors urges mayors to build partnerships with their local jazz society and other members of the arts and music community in their cities to proclaim, to participate in, and to celebrate the month of April as Jazz Appreciation Month.

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 40,000 cultural organizations, the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the nation's 5,000 local arts agencies, the arts and humanities councils of the 50 states and U.S. jurisdictions, and the President of the United States have participated in the past and will be asked to participate again this year in this national celebration; and

WHEREAS, the month of October 2008 has been designated as National Arts and Humanities Month, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the United States Conference of Mayors urges mayors to build partnerships with their local arts agencies and other members of the arts and humanities community in their cities to proclaim, to participate in, and to celebrate the month of October as National Arts and Humanities Month.

PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGN FOR ARTS EDUCATION

WHEREAS, Americans for the Arts, in partnership with the Advertising Council and the NAMM Foundation will launch the second phase of its award-winning public service advertisements (PSAs), titled "The Arts. Ask for More." The campaign will feature brand new creative television, radio and print ads promoting the benefits of arts education in America; and

WHEREAS, these PSAs build on the original series of ads first launched in 2002 in partnership with more than 350 local, state, and national partners, during the first phase of the campaign 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 in the past secured media distribution relationships with numerous networks and media outlets including -- CBS, NBC, ABC, FOX, BRAVO, VH1 as well as with *The New York Times*, *USA Today*, Conde Nast publications and many other local, regional and national media companies and will seek to expand the distribution even further during the second phase of the campaign; and

WHEREAS, the first phase of the PSA campaign generated more than \$150 million in donated media making it one of the Ad Council's most successful campaigns over the past several years; and

WHEREAS, "The Arts. Ask for More." PSA materials will be distributed to thousands of television stations, radio stations, newspapers, magazines, billboard companies, and websites; 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 PSAs direct parents to visit www.AmericansForTheArts.org where they will find ten simple ways on how to include the arts in their children's lives, including registering their children for school and community programs, reinforcing the benefits of the arts in your conversations, and communicating the importance of the arts with teachers, principals and elected officials. The site also features an online resource center to help parents, teachers, school board leaders, and advocates increase the presence and quality of arts

education in their schools; and

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the United States Conference of Mayors specifically endorses the second phase of "The Arts. Ask for More." public awareness 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 schools.

**OPPOSING RESTRICTIONS ON LOCAL USE OF TAX-EXEMPT BONDS FOR
PUBLICLY OWNED PROFESSIONAL SPORTS FACILITIES**

WHEREAS, language was inserted into the Senate version of the Food and Energy Security Act of 2007, in order to provide a revenue offset for an unrelated tax incentive, that would have prohibited the use of tax-exempt bond financing for professional sports facilities; and

WHEREAS, such proposed legislation represents a dangerous precedent for federal intrusion into state and local governments' financing decisions by dictating the types of projects that state and local governments may finance through tax-exempt bonds; and

WHEREAS, the proposed legislation even prohibits use of tax-exempt bond financing for mixed-purpose facilities that occasionally are used by professional sports teams, including minor league teams and events; and

WHEREAS, sports facilities and mixed-purpose facilities used for professional sports events often serve as an important stimulus for local economic development; and

WHEREAS, by eliminating tax-exempt financing for sports facilities, the cost to state and local taxpayers for building new sports facilities or rehabilitating existing ones would be dramatically increased or possibly become unaffordable,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges members of Congress to oppose legislation that would impose limitations on state and local governments' use of tax-exempt bond financing.

**THE URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY PROGRAM AND URBAN FOREST
RESEARCH**

WHEREAS, One of the three actions of the U.S. Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement is to use urban forest restoration to meet or beat the Kyoto Protocol targets in their own communities; and

WHEREAS, trees are an integral part of urban infrastructure, as critical to the health and livability of communities as roads, sewers, and buildings; and

WHEREAS, tree canopy can help increase property values, attract redevelopment, support walkable communities, enhance tourism, and promote active lifestyles; and

WHEREAS, urban forests provide valuable, cost effective ecological services that include energy conservation, mitigating climate change, carbon sequestration, improving air quality, reducing stormwater management demands, and supporting nutrients cycles, wildlife habitat, soil conservation, and watershed protection; and

WHEREAS, the US Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry Program (U&CF) and urban forest research conducted by the US Forest Service Research and Development (R&D) provide valuable technical and financial assistance to states, local governments, and community-based organizations; and

WHEREAS, U&CF was responsible in FY 2007 for providing direct assistance in all States and territories to nearly 7,000 communities where 165 million people live, comprising 77% of the 215 million Americans living in cities, suburbs and towns; and

WHEREAS, U&CF and urban forest R&D provide scientifically-based, technically accurate information and assistance to facilitate the orderly planting and proper maintenance of trees to provide maximum benefits and minimum risk to the public,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Congress fund the U&CF program annual budget at no less than \$100 million; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED; that Congress fund urban forest research investments within R&D at no less than \$24 million by 2015.

URGING THE ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESS TO INCREASE EFFORTS AND SUPPORT FOR TIMELY EXPANSION OF THE U.S. VISA WAIVER PROGRAM

WHEREAS, travel and tourism is one of America's largest and most important economic industries contributing an expected \$740 billion in direct expenditures, \$109 billion in local, state and federal tax revenue, \$177 billion in payroll and \$7.5 million in direct travel jobs; and

WHEREAS, since 9/11, America has suffered a significant loss of long-haul/overseas visitors (long-haul excludes visitors from Canada and Mexico) and has become increasingly perceived abroad as an unfriendly and unwelcoming destination.

WHEREAS, from 2000 to 2007, there has been a worldwide increase in long-haul travel of 35 million, while over that same period, the U.S. saw 2 million fewer overseas visitors; and

WHEREAS, the Visa Waiver Program (VWP), established by Congress in 1986, permits business and leisure travelers from 27 selected countries to visit the U.S. for up to 90 days without the expense and delay of obtaining a non-immigrant visitor visa.

WHEREAS, the program was intended to facilitate and promote overseas travel to the U.S. while simultaneously allowing the State Department to shift visa screening resources to higher-risk countries; and

WHEREAS, the following 27 countries currently participate in the VWP: Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brunei, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, San Marino, Singapore, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and United Kingdom; and

WHEREAS, in 2006, approximately 14 million overseas visitors arriving in the U.S. originated from one of the 27 VWP countries, representing approximately two-thirds of all overseas visitors; and

WHEREAS, in August 2007, President Bush signed into law legislation that authorized the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to reform the VWP by strengthening the security arrangements required of participant countries, as well as to expand the conditions for additional countries to join the program; and

WHEREAS, the biggest challenge to joining the VWP for aspiring countries is a country's visa "refusal rate," or the annual percent of visa applications rejected by the U.S. Department of State. The reformed VWP allows the Secretary of DHS to waive the visa refusal rate threshold from 3 to 10 percent if certain security requirements are met by aspiring countries; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. has signed a Visa Waiver Program Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) this year with eight aspiring Visa Waiver Program countries that currently meet the new visa refusal rate threshold, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Latvia, Slovakia, Hungary, Lithuania, Malta and South Korea and each country has agreed to the meeting the new security requirements; and

WHEREAS, required follow-up procedures in the MOU include the introduction of electronic passports for citizens; setting up a traveler information sharing system between the two governments; and establishment of the U.S. Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA), which requires citizens of aspiring Visa Waiver Program countries to submit biographical and other security-related information to U.S. authorities in advance of travel and also commits these countries and the U.S. to conduct a joint outreach campaign to inform foreign citizens of their obligation to use the ESTA system. However, the U.S. currently lacks an effective communications strategy to carry out this aspect of the MOU; and

WHEREAS, South Korea is one of America's closest allies and one of the fastest growing economies in the world. In April 2007, the U.S. and South Korea signed the KORUS FTA, a free-trade agreement that boosts economic ties between the two countries creating the third-largest free-trade area after the EU and NAFTA; and

WHEREAS, providing Visa Waiver Program status to South Korea represents an incredible economic opportunity for the United States. Canada lifted its visa restriction for South Korea in 1994, and in two years, Korean arrivals jumped 79 percent; and

WHEREAS, in 2007, there were 13.3 million Korean outbound travelers representing 28 percent of its 48 million total population and 52 percent of these travelers traveled more than once a year at an average per capita spending overseas of \$1,576 and of the 13.3 million South Korean outbound travelers in 2007, only 806,175 visited the U.S. Travelers were deterred in large part by the U.S. visa process which requires a \$131 visa-

application fee and an in-person interview at a single U.S. Embassy location in Seoul; and

WHEREAS, if South Korea joins the VWP, the U.S. could expect at least 1.45 million visitors in the first year, according to the U.S. Department of Commerce, boosting the American economy and helping to reverse the drastic decline in overseas travel to the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, under US-VISIT (U.S. Visitor and Immigrant Status Indicator Technology), a post-9/11 program designed to keep track of visitors to the U.S., DHS agents have used biometric fingerprinting to identify nearly 100 million people entering the country by air or sea since January 2004. The VWP reforms set a June 30, 2009 congressional deadline to fingerprint visitors departing the U.S. by air in order to maintain the expanded visa refusal rate waiver authority; and

WHEREAS, on April 22, 2008, DHS announced a controversial proposed rule to establish biometric exit procedures at all U.S. air and sea ports of departure that would require airlines and cruise ship operators to collect the biometric fingerprints and transmit them to DHS within 24 hours of their passengers' departure, and which DHS intends to implement by January 2009; and

WHEREAS, an effective air exit system is important to America's security, a critical element of a credible immigration system and a requisite for a secure and expanded Visa Waiver Program. The primary purposes of an air exit system - to enforce compliance with U.S. immigration laws and to serve as a counterterrorism tool - are inherently governmental responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, timely execution of an air exit system that is supported by the government, the aviation community and the travel industry is needed to ensure that the June 30, 2009 deadline is met. Failure to meet this deadline will result in delays or halt the expansion of the VWP for all aspiring countries including South Korea.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges the Congress, the Administration and the DHS to work cooperatively to quickly develop and implement the new security systems necessary to allow the continued expansion of the Visa Waiver Program for aspiring countries that meet admission requirements, such as South Korea.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that USCM urges the federal government to increase staffing for U.S. Customs and Border Protection Officers at air, land and sea ports of entry.

USCM SUPPORTS TRAVEL PROMOTION

WHEREAS, travel and tourism is a powerful economic generator in all 50 states, accounting for an expected \$740 billion in expenditures, \$110 billion in local, state and federal taxes and 7.5 million jobs in 2007; and

WHEREAS, travel is America's leading service sector export, generating \$107.9 billion in 2007 from international travelers; and

WHEREAS, travel and tourism creates one of the nation's only balance of trade surpluses (valued at \$8.3 billion in 2007); and

WHEREAS, the world travel market is expanding, but the U.S. share has declined 35 percent over the past 15 years; and

WHEREAS, travel to the United States from "overseas" destinations has yet to rebound to pre-9/11 levels; and

WHEREAS, since 9/11 the United States is often perceived to no longer be a friendly and welcoming destination, which has cost America \$150 billion in lost visitor spending and 250,000 American jobs - losses that affect every city across the country; and

WHEREAS, international travelers are 74 percent more likely to have a favorable opinion of America and Americans after having visited; and

WHEREAS, all major industrialized nations except the United States have national tourism policies and spend significant funds on promoting their destinations overseas, and, in turn, see substantial returns on their investments; and

WHEREAS, the facilitation of secure, yet efficient, travel across American borders must be a priority of the federal government; and

WHEREAS, U.S. Senator Dorgan of North Dakota and U.S. Representative Delahunt of Massachusetts have introduced companion bills in Congress each entitled the Travel Promotion Act, which creates a public-private partnership to educate travelers about U.S. travel policies and promote the United States as a destination of choice; and

WHEREAS, the Travel Promotion Act will benefit every city, create jobs, enhance national security, contribute to a favorable balance of trade for the U.S. economy, and improve our national image around the world; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors (USCM) now calls upon the U.S. Congress to promptly pass the Travel Promotion Act (S. 1661/H.R. 3232) and thus create a public-private partnership that will restore the U.S. to its place as the world's premier international visitor destination; and

NATIONAL TOURISM WEEK

WHEREAS, National Tourism Week was established in 1983 when the U.S. Congress passed a joint resolution designating the week to be first celebrated in May 1984; and

WHEREAS, travel is at the heart of America's economic and national security; and

WHEREAS, travel is one of America's largest service exports creating a travel trade surplus in excess of \$8 billion and is one of the nation's largest employers accounting for more than 7.5 million direct travel-generated jobs, or one in every eight U.S. non-farm jobs, with workers sharing total earnings of \$178.1 billion; and

WHEREAS, including the direct spending in the U.S. by domestic and international visitors, travel and tourism generated \$740 billion last year, providing \$110 billion in tax revenue to local, state and federal governments; and

WHEREAS, the travel industry supports the interests of cities nationwide, contributing to employment, economic prosperity, international trade and relations, peace, understanding and goodwill; and

WHEREAS, travel ranks as one of the largest industries in terms of revenues generated; and

WHEREAS, as people throughout the world become increasingly aware of the outstanding cultural and recreational opportunities available in destinations throughout the United States, travel will become an increasingly vital resource in improving America's image around the world and an extension of our public diplomacy; and

WHEREAS, given these laudable contributions to the economic, social and cultural well-being of the nation, it is fitting that we recognize the importance of the American travel industry;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the United States Conference of Mayors urges mayors to build and foster partnerships with their local travel and tourism communities to proclaim and celebrate May 9-17, 2009 as National Tourism Week and to participate in and support local efforts to promote travel to their cities.

DIGITAL TELEVISION (DTV) TRANSITION OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

WHEREAS, full-powered analog broadcasting will cease on February 17, 2009, and thereafter all full analog television broadcasts will be in digital format; and

WHEREAS, Congress allocated up to \$1.5 billion for an analog to digital converter box subsidy program through the U.S. Department of Commerce - making two \$40.00 coupons available to every home that applies to partially pay for up to two converter boxes - but the current budget does not adequately fund outreach and education directed toward the approximately 5% of viewers who depend exclusively on over-the-air reception and will need to replace their analog television sets with a digital tuner, subscribe to cable or satellite services, or purchase a converter box in order to continue to receive broadcast television; and the current budget does fund technical support for viewers who opt to purchase the converter box and need assistance with installation or selecting the appropriate antennae; and

WHEREAS, public outreach and education play a vital role to ensure a successful transition to digital transmission, particularly for low-income, elderly, rural area households, and Spanish-speaking households most in need of support and information; and

WHEREAS, the federal government has allocated just \$5 million in public outreach and education funding to the National Telecommunications and Information Association, and that the Federal Communications Commission has requested only \$1.5 million for the same purpose; and

WHEREAS, in contrast, the United Kingdom is spending up to \$400 million on its digital transition public education campaign for a population about one-fifth the size of the United States population; and

WHEREAS, one of the benefits of shifting to digital television is the freeing up 700 mhz block of spectrum and making it available to first responders across the country so that police, fire and rescue services can interact with one another, will directly benefit our local communities,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors supports the digital television transition and calls upon

Congress to increase funding in order to make the transition as smooth as possible by ensuring overall public awareness and preparedness; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors calls upon Congress to provide increased federal funding targeted for public broadcast television stations to undertake these activities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that mayors should meet with their local broadcasters, as well as employ local Public, Education and Governmental (PEG) channels, to better educate their constituents on the impending deadline.

CALLING FOR FEDERAL ACTION ON A NATIONAL BROADBAND POLICY

WHEREAS, the United States was the birthplace of the Internet, and in the 1990s it was a global leader in broadband deployment and technology innovation; and

WHEREAS, since 2001, the United States has plunged from fourth place in the world in per capita broadband deployment to as low as 19th place in some surveys, and has also fallen in global rankings among industrialized countries with respect to download/upload and affordability; and

WHEREAS, broadband is no longer a luxury for our communities - it is a necessity and an essential service; just as our citizens have come to expect world-class transportation, water, electricity, sewer and other critical infrastructure, they are now demanding access to an advanced digital infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, access to and use of advanced Internet applications is critically important for the economic, social and civic growth of individuals and families; and

WHEREAS, broadband is critical to the health of our local economies and our ability to compete on a global scale; the Brookings Institution has estimated that the nation's broadband decline could lead to a potential loss of \$1 trillion in economic productivity over the next decade, as well as more than 1.2 million jobs that could be created by better broadband; and

WHEREAS, residents and visitors to U.S. cities require high speed connections in order to compete in the 21st Century global economy; and

WHEREAS, broadband is also critical for our local governments to protect and serve; events like 9/11, Hurricane Katrina and others have demonstrated that our ability to communicate within and across various agencies has a dramatic impact on our ability to respond; and

WHEREAS, mayors of major cities across the U.S. have become aware that the current deployment of broadband of the highest-speed tiers by incumbent providers is not guided by any national broadband policy and has so far resulted in little urban deployment; and

WHEREAS, reclaiming the United States' worldwide leadership in this area will take an unprecedented cooperation between all levels of government, the private sector, and community-based organizations,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that if U.S. cities are to thrive as engines of economic growth and be globally competitive in the 21st Century, then the Administration, Congress and the FCC should take action now to develop a comprehensive national broadband policy that includes high speed broadband deployment to cities as an imperative; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the national broadband policy should support measures to preserve the ability of local governments to provide broadband capability and services within their communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that said national broadband policy should ensure that the speed of Internet access available to American consumers, enterprises and institutions is comparable to that available in the most advanced industrialized nations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that said national broadband policy should ensure that these high-speed Internet services are ubiquitous in availability to all American households in all neighborhoods; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that said national broadband policy should ensure that affordable high-speed Internet access is attainable for all American consumers and families; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if American cities are to undertake appropriate and necessary broadband planning, the FCC should immediately begin collecting detailed information on broadband coverage and use and share said data with local governments as such information is a matter of public concern; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Administration, Congress and the FCC should work with local governments to facilitate an expansion of resources to speed the development of affordable globally-competitive infrastructure in American cities

2008 COMMUNICATIONS POLICY

WHEREAS, mayors support the entry of traditional telephone companies into the video marketplace and the entry of traditional cable operators into the offering of voice services; and

WHEREAS, mayors, as the CEOs of local governments, which are themselves significant and sophisticated users of communications technology, eagerly anticipate the further conversion of voice, video and data services from analog to digital technology and the resulting increase in choice of providers, faster speeds and lower prices; and

WHEREAS, mayors recognize the increasing and vital role communications plays in both homeland and hometown security; and

WHEREAS, the Conference of Mayors' advocacy efforts with Congress, the Federal Communications Commission and the Administration has been to highlight that the Federal government must:

- Recognize and respect the inherent police powers of local governments and city's right to manage and charge for the use of the public right-of-way;
- Require that new technologies bear the same social obligations as the services they seek to replace such as supporting E-911 services, universal service;
- Appreciate the neighborhood-by-neighborhood expertise local government brings to overseeing the social obligations, including public safety, broadband deployment, and preventing economic redlining;
- Homeland and hometown security require the dedication of interference free dedicated interoperable spectrum for first responders; and
- Mayors are grateful to the many leaders in Congress that continue to distinguish a tax from a fee for benefit rendered, such as use of the rights-of-way.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the United States Conference of Mayors' advocacy efforts shall seek to achieve policies that:

- Preserve the local cable franchising scheme set out in 1984 federal Cable Act (and affirmed in 1992 and 1996) in which municipalities have the right to require all providers address each community's needs in exchange for using our rights of way. Such authority must continue to

empower localities with the authority to require as compensation for use of rights of way:

- Build-out to all residents, not just the most affluent;
 - Adequate capacity for community channels, equipment and financial support, (The Cable Act should be amended to permit local governments to use PEG support for both capital and operating support.);
 - "Institutional Networks" for use by local government for non-commercial purposes;
 - Preservation of local police powers and consumer protections.
- Respect local governments' ability to control the rights-of-way and regulate the actions of providers who reside in the city's rights-of-way.
 - Require that new technologies bear the same social obligations as the services they seek to replace such as supporting E-911 services, universal service;
 - Oppose any preemption of state and local governments' consumer protection laws and zoning authority, and wireless providers, like their competitors, should be subject to local fair business practices and local cell tower siting authority;
 - Encourage competition among multiple IP service providers;
 - Resist attempts to auction for private purposes the so called D-Block of 700 MHz spectrum earmarked for state and local public safety and to properly fund the operations of the Public Safety Spectrum Trust;
 - Fund and assist establish national standards for interoperable public safety standards for first responders;
 - Preserve and extend municipal government authority to provide communications services to their constituents; and
 - Enact legislation to treat Internet commerce in the same manner as main street vendors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the United States Conference of Mayors acknowledges that the issue of net neutrality will be a

central issue in any future communications or broadband policy efforts in the Congress, and the Conference through its Transportation and Communications Committee will examine these issues and develop a policy position for consideration by the Members.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the United States Conference of Mayors' advocacy efforts shall be guided by these principles for the remainder of the 110th Congress, with the platform writing committees of the Democratic and Republican Parties, the 111th Congress and the 44th President of the United States.

EXPANSION OF INTERCITY PASSENGER RAIL IN THE U.S.

WHEREAS, highways and airports are increasingly congested; and

WHEREAS, in highly populated regions Amtrak trains and infrastructure help more than 800,000 commuters to and from work every day in congested metropolitan areas providing a reliable rail option, reducing congestion on roads and in the skies; and

WHEREAS, the Texas Transportation Institute has estimated Americans spend more than 4 billion hours annually in traffic and the FAA has estimated airport delays cost the economy more than \$10 billion; and

WHEREAS, Amtrak service removes 8 million cars from the road and eliminates the need for 50,000 fully-loaded passenger airplanes each year; and

WHEREAS, Amtrak annually provides intercity passenger rail travel to more than 25 million Americans residing in 46 states; and

WHEREAS, May ridership was nearly 2.6 million—up 12.3% from May 2007

WHEREAS, May 2008 was the highest, single month in Amtrak history both for ridership and revenue

WHEREAS, traveling by passenger rail is energy efficient, contributing 18 percent less per passenger mile to greenhouse gas emissions than either cars or airplanes, according to the U.S. Department of Energy; and

WHEREAS, when combined with all modes of transportation, passenger railroads emit only 0.2 percent of the travel industry's total greenhouse gases; and

WHEREAS, the Northeast Corridor is home to the busiest, most complex, technically advanced track structures in the world with over 2,600 trains each weekday including freight trains, commuter trains, and intercity passenger trains; and

WHEREAS, the Northeast Corridor links 91 cities, and serves a population of 49.5 million people; and

WHEREAS, an average of 750,000 passengers take trains which use the Northeast Corridor each day; and

WHEREAS, between certain cities in the Northeast, like New York City and Washington, DC, more travelers choose to take the train than to fly on a commercial airline; and

WHEREAS, *Acela Express* ridership was up 2.4% since May 2007 on the Northeast Corridor; and

WHEREAS, *Amtrak Regional* ridership was up 12.4% on the Northeast Corridor; and

WHEREAS, Amtrak owns and operates 363 miles of the Northeast Corridor between Washington, DC, and Boston, MA; and

WHEREAS, railroad stations in our communities provide a source of civic pride and a tool for economic growth; and

WHEREAS, passenger rail has been undercapitalized in this country; and

WHEREAS, Amtrak has demonstrated sound fiscal stewardship by taking positive steps to reduce costs, streamline corporate structure and dramatically increase the transparency of Amtrak's fiscal condition,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors supports the passage of federal legislation recognizing the current Amtrak system as a national asset and encourages the development of higher speed rail corridors throughout the country to enhance our transportation network, and recognizes the Northeast Corridor as a national asset.

**PROVIDING ADEQUATE FUNDING SOURCES TO ADDRESS CAPACITY NEEDS IN
THE NATIONAL AIRSPACE SYSTEM THROUGH FAA REAUTHORIZATION**

WHEREAS, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has identified at least seven metropolitan areas and 18 hub airports that need additional air capacity improvements to meet anticipated demand by 2015, and 15 metropolitan areas and 27 hub airports by 2025; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Congress in 1990, in order to meet the growing demand for airport capacity, authorized commercial service airport sponsors to impose a user fee of up to \$3 per flight of each paying passenger, called a "Passenger Facility Charge" (PFC); and

WHEREAS, PFC revenue has served as a major source of funding for the construction of runways, taxiways, terminals and gates, as well as for debt service, and the Secretary of Transportation has praised the PFC program as "very successful at providing a stable source of revenue to fund capital development projects"; and

WHEREAS, by using PFCs to fund major airside and landside capacity improvements, airports have kept these costs out of the rates and charges airport impose on airlines; and

WHEREAS, in 2000, the Congress increased the maximum PFC to \$4.50, but the rise in construction costs and inflation have eroded the value of PFCs, so that a \$4.50 PFC in 2000 is now worth only \$2.86; and

WHEREAS, the Congress will consider whether to increase the PFC cap in legislation to reauthorize Federal Aviation Administration programs that are set to expire at the end of this fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, the Administration's FAA reauthorization proposal recognizes the importance of the PFC program to our national air transportation system and the need to increase the PFC to meet the growing airport capacity needs; and

WHEREAS, in proposing an increase in the PFC cap to \$6.00, the Administration's proposal did not take into account the rise in construction costs or the effect of inflation; and

WHEREAS, an increase to \$7.20 is needed simply to restore the buying power of the PFC increase enacted in 2000; and

WHEREAS, under the Administration's proposal, large and medium hub airports would no longer be eligible for apportionment funding under the Airport Improvement Program (AIP), because the Administration believes these airports can obtain adequate funding through the imposition of PFCs; and

WHEREAS, large and medium hub airports are willing to forego future AIP apportionment funding so long as the PFC cap is increased to \$7.50, which would offset the expected impact of inflation and the further increase in construction costs over the next several years; and

WHEREAS, enacting a \$7.50 PFC cap while removing large and medium hub airports from AIP apportionment eligibility would benefit all airports in the national air transportation system, because the larger airports would rely even more heavily on PFC funding, while smaller airports would benefit by receiving a greater portion of AIP funds than under current law; and

WHEREAS, the National League of Cities, the National Association of Counties, the National Association of State Aviation Officials, the Airports Council International-North America, the American Association of Airport Executives, the Associated General Contractors, the American Road and Transportation Builders Association, and the American Association of Civil Engineers have endorsed an increase in the PFC cap; and

WHEREAS, it also is important to reauthorize the Airport Improvement Program at a level that will meet the needs of both large and small airports; and

WHEREAS, to account for the rise in construction costs and the impact of inflation, AIP funding should be increased over the current authorized level of \$3.7 billion,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors calls upon the Congress to act now to reauthorize this vital legislation rather than utilizing continuing resolutions making it difficult for airport officials to plan future projects, thereby allowing an increase in the PFC cap and an increase in the authorized level of AIP funding to meet the rise in construction costs, the impact of inflation, and the demand for airport capacity growth; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges the Congress to raise the maximum PFC cap to \$7.50 per flight, to index this increase to inflation, and to authorize at least \$3.8 billion in AIP funding, with an increase of \$100 million each year thereafter.

**ENSURING BICYCLING IS INTEGRATED INTO NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION,
CLIMATE, ENERGY AND HEALTH POLICY INITIATIVES**

WHEREAS, bicycling can provide multiple and cross-cutting benefits in U.S policy initiatives that seek to address transportation needs, limit climate change and energy consumption and improve public health; and

WHEREAS, we now live in a nation with 300 million people, and that number is expected to grow to 365 million by 2030 and to 420 million by 2050 with the vast majority of that growth occurring in congested urban areas where there are significant limitations on accommodating increased motor vehicle travel; and

WHEREAS, since 1980, the number of miles Americans drive has grown three times faster than the U.S. population; and

WHEREAS, a national transportation system that invests in and is conducive to bicycling reduces traffic congestion in our most heavily congested urban areas while promoting an overall improved quality of life that is valuable for the Nation; As example:

- More than 200 cities throughout the U.S., representing more than 35 million people have committed to implementing bicycle friendly action plans to make their communities more bicycle friendly; and
- The greatest potential for increased bicycle usage is in our major urban areas where 40 percent of trips are two miles or less and 28 percent are less than one mile; and
- Surveys show that a majority of people want to ride more but are dissuaded by concern over traffic danger and other barriers, and case studies have shown that when those barriers to bicycling are removed, people start riding; and

WHEREAS, a national network of interconnected urban and rural bikeways can provide valuable community benefits, including low or no-cost recreation and alternative transportation options for people of all ages and abilities

WHEREAS, the transportation sector contributes one-third of the greenhouse gas emissions in the United States and passenger automobiles and light trucks alone contribute 21 percent

WHEREAS, 10 percent of global oil production goes solely toward fueling America's cars and trucks and the U.S. could save 462 millions of gallons of gasoline a year by increasing cycling from one percent to one and a half percent of all trips; and.

WHEREAS, bicycle commuters annually save on average \$1,825 in auto-related costs, reduce their carbon emissions by 128 pounds, conserve 145 gallons of gasoline, and avoid 50 hours of gridlock traffic; and

WHEREAS, over 800 of our Nation's Mayors have signed onto the Climate Protection Agreement of the United States Conference of Mayors urging the Federal Government to enact policies and programs to meet or exceed a greenhouse gas emission reduction target of a seven percent reduction from 1990 levels by 2012; and

WHEREAS, two years ago the Conference of Mayors unanimously endorsed the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, whereby a key component is to implement climate-friendly land-use policies and invest in public transportation and bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the Center for Disease Control estimates that if all physically inactive Americans became active, we would save \$77 billion in annual medical costs

WHEREAS, the United States is challenged by an obesity epidemic in which 65 percent of U.S. adults are either overweight or obese, and 13 percent of children and adolescents are overweight, due in large part to a lack of regular activity; and

WHEREAS, the percentage of U.S. children who walk or bike to school has dropped by 70 percent since 1969 such that only 15 percent of students were walking or biking to school in 2001 while the rate of childhood obesity has tripled in recent years,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors believes that achieving increased levels of bicycling is in the national interest; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors encourages the development and implementation of a coordinated national bicycling strategy aimed to increase safe bicycle use as a mode of transportation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors encourages the development of federal transportation, environmental and public health policies that recognize increased and safe bicycle usage for transportation is in the national interest and that we further urge Congress in the next federal transportation reauthorization to establish policies and funding mechanisms that will aim to:

- Reduce the number of motor vehicle miles traveled (VMT); and
- Improve safety conditions for bicyclists; and
- Collect transportation and safety data needed to monitor progress; and
- Provide incentives for state and local governments to adopt and implement Complete Street policies designed to accommodate all users; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that even absent federal incentives, Governors and state-level leadership should embrace Complete Streets policies that acknowledge the contributions of bicycles as a means to reduce vehicle miles by integrating bicycle use into standard street design; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that that the U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on all Mayors that sign onto the Climate Protection Agreement to develop and implement action plans to incorporate bicycling programs and policies as a key component in reducing greenhouse gas emissions 80 percent by 2050; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors encourages every mayor to strive to make their city a Bicycle Friendly Community.

**RISING GAS PRICES FOCUS THE NEED FOR NEW FUNDING RESOURCES AND
NEW COMMITMENTS TO PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION AND OTHER AFFORDABLE
TRAVEL OPTIONS**

WHEREAS, gasoline prices are already more than one dollar per gallon higher than the prior year, and now exceed \$4.00 per gallon; and

WHEREAS, this run-up in gasoline costs is unprecedented and is primarily driven by steeply rising oil prices, which have doubled since last year and more than quadrupled since 2002; and

WHEREAS, rising gas prices are adversely affecting individuals, families, public and private agencies and institutions, local and metropolitan economies and the U.S. economy; and

WHEREAS, the average American household is now spending more on transportation costs than on food and healthcare combined; and

WHEREAS, investments in public transportation and other travel options has been shown to reduce transportation costs for individuals and families; and

WHEREAS, a household using public transit can save more than \$6,200 per year in transportation costs, according to one recent estimate by the American Public Transportation Association; and

WHEREAS, in addition to public transportation use, it has also been shown that individuals and households can achieve significant savings in transportation costs through bicycling, carpooling, carsharing, intercity passenger rail, telecommuting, and walking, travel options that are more environmentally friendly, reduce our dependence on foreign oil, and help curb greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, in 2007, 10.3 billion trips were taken on U.S. public transportation - the highest number of trips taken in fifty years according to the American Public Transportation Association - and in the first quarter of 2008, public transportation ridership continued this record pace by climbing 3.3 percent; and

WHEREAS, cities are working to significantly expand travel options, both immediately and over the near term, to meet this

record growth in public transit ridership and other changes as people seek alternatives to single-occupancy automobile use; and

WHEREAS, many cities throughout the U.S., such as Charlotte, Denver, Honolulu, New York, Phoenix, Seattle and Tucson, among many others, are seeking to build new or expand rail transit service, efforts that are proving more difficult due to increased fuel and power costs, declining local sales and other tax receipts, and increased construction costs; and

WHEREAS, the success of these and other local efforts to expand the availability of public transportation while keeping these services affordable and provide other travel options for the public depends on increased public and private resource commitments, both immediately and over the near term; and

WHEREAS, local and state transportation decision-makers are fortunate that there are many features embedded in the current federal surface transportation law that provides states with the opportunity to use currently available federal transportation funds to increase investments for travel options that can reduce transportation costs to individuals, families and businesses, helping reduce total energy costs to local and regional economies; and

WHEREAS, among these provisions, states now have more than \$4 billion in spending capacity under the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement program, which could be directed to projects and programs targeted to the many local areas of the country with poor air quality, to pay the operating costs of new transit services, support expanded carpool and vanpool program, adjust traffic signal systems to enhance bus services and improve access for walking and bicycling, acquire new buses and rail cars, and many other improvements, at a 100 percent federal share; and

WHEREAS, other provisions of the law allow states to use other federal program funds, totaling more than \$2 billion in the current fiscal year, to fund projects, such as carpooling, vanpooling, signal preemption system for rapid bus services, pedestrian- and bicycling-related improvements, at a 100 percent federal share anywhere in a state; and

WHEREAS, current law allows states to direct a substantial share of their transportation program resources - as much as \$20 billion in transportation funding in the current fiscal year - to dramatically increase investments in public transportation

and other mobility alternatives, including the construction of streetcar and trolley systems, bus rapid transit systems, and commuter and light rail systems, among other investments; and

WHEREAS, legislation was recently approved by a key House transportation panel to increase current funding commitments to transit providers by more than \$1.7 billion through September 30, 2009 to support transit providers in expanding transit services and helping keep transit fares affordable,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors calls upon the President and Congress to provide cities with additional financial resources and tools to create, promote and expand public transportation and other mobility alternatives, thereby improving the economic conditions of the American family, reducing the nation's dependency on oil and improving the environment, especially reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls upon the President and the Congress to support immediate adjustments in existing federal transportation commitments by raising funding levels for public transportation above current spending authorizations and eliminate the bias in existing federal tax law that substantially favors parking benefits over transit and other commute benefits.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls upon the nation's Governors to use the flexibilities that current law provides to allocate available federal transportation resources to bolster public transportation services and other mobility alternatives.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors calls upon the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation, in concert with the Administrators of the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration, to launch a broad public outreach and information campaign to advise officials in state transportation departments, metropolitan planning organizations, and local governments about the many flexibilities that exist under current law to support investments in public transportation and other affordable travel options, so that the public can realize the financial, mobility and other benefits from changes in the use of federal transportation resources.

**SURFACE TRANSPORTATION POLICY FRAMEWORK FOR FEDERAL
SUCCESSOR LEGISLATION TO SAFETEA-LU**

WHEREAS, the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), the multi-year federal surface transportation law, is due to expire September 30, 2009; and

WHEREAS, this law was the second renewal of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991, the landmark transportation reform statute that provided state and local decision-makers with added flexibility to develop and fund a range of transportation solutions, reduced modal bias in federal planning and funding rules, expanded public participation in shaping transportation investment programs, allowed increased focus on multi-modal investments, and extended greater decision-making authority to local elected officials served by Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs), key features that were largely retained by reauthorizations in 1998 and 2005; and

WHEREAS, despite increasing federal financial commitments to the nation's surface transportation needs, local efforts to use these flexibilities and diversify the mix of transportation investments through improved transit services, enhanced facilities for safer walking and bicycling, deployment of congestion relief strategies through better system operations and the adoption of transportation control measures (TCMs), or maintenance of local infrastructure especially local bridge repair - have been challenged on several fronts; and

WHEREAS, unlike federal transit resources which largely flow to local, regional and state agencies providing transit services, based mostly on passengers served, existing law continues to vest states with broad authority to decide how other federal transportation funds are invested within the state, with either few or no federal standards to measure and report on performance and outcomes, maintain existing facilities in a state of good repair, distribute funds equitably among local areas or regions within the state, or target resources to specific national goals such improving air quality; and

WHEREAS, many states have either reduced or restrained the relative share of federal transportation funds allocated to city and local area transportation priorities, such as safety improvements, transit capital needs, pedestrian and bicycling facilities, local maintenance projects and bridge repairs, air

quality projects, and TCMs, which raises important issues as mayors and local government leaders in metropolitan areas seek to provide alternatives to automobile use that will reduce congestion, improve air quality, curb energy use, address climate protection goals, and help households and businesses address rising transportation costs; and

WHEREAS, current law enables these practices in many states because local officials have limited authority over project selection and funding allocations, controlling less than ten cents of every federal transportation dollar, even though cities and other local governments own most of the nation's highways, bridges, transit systems, airports, ports and related surface transportation facilities, such as sidewalks, traffic signals, and public parking facilities, including ownership of more than 62 percent of all highways on the Federal-Aid Highway System in urbanized areas of the nation; and

WHEREAS, such state allocation practices governing the use of federal transportation resources have occurred while cities and other local governments have been raising their highway investment levels well beyond those of the federal government and state governments; and

WHEREAS, since 2000, cities and other local governments increased their new revenue commitments to highway investment by 47 percent, as compared to the federal government at 38 percent and all state governments at 23 percent; and

WHEREAS, actions and practices by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) also have made it more difficult for mayors and other local leaders to utilize federal transportation resources in meeting their local and regional priorities; and

WHEREAS, existing federal rules and policies administered by the FHWA and FTA often have prevented local decision-makers from incorporating future transit commitments into federally-supported transportation improvement programs, a prerequisite for future federal funding, or from securing needed FTA approvals to gain access to federal discretionary funds for new transit investments, while such rules generally are not applicable to new state highway capacity projects; and

WHEREAS, FHWA oversight of state transportation programs, where most federal surface transportation resources are directed, has been limited, even as the financial capacity of many programs

declines due to unconstrained capital programs, rising new construction, rehabilitation and maintenance costs, escalating transportation debt burdens and declining state transportation revenue commitments; and

WHEREAS, as one example, state governments since 2000 have increased state highway program debt by 57 percent -- more than two and one-half times highway revenue growth during the same period -- exclusive of other future liabilities (e.g., Advance Construction, TIFIA loans) incurred under FHWA programs where future federal transportation resources to the states are encumbered; and

WHEREAS, after nearly three years, the FHWA has yet to comply with SAFETEA-LU provisions requiring the agency to provide more transparency on how states are allocating federal transportation dollars, a directive intended to inform local officials and the public on how federal transportation resources are being allocated within each state by local area, program category, and type of investment; and

WHEREAS, federal transportation funding allocations are based on a formula that rewards increased vehicle miles traveled (VMT), thereby encouraging more spending on roads than on transit and travel demand reductions, increasing greenhouse gas emissions, limiting transportation choices, continuing petroleum dependence, and promoting expenditures on inefficient infrastructure development; and

WHEREAS, there is a clear national need to ensure balanced investment of available federal resources that supports all users of the transportation network and increases people-trip carrying capacity and mobility, including transit, bicycling, walking, and travel demand management, as well as highway and street improvements, and provides incentives for development patterns, including transit-oriented development, that help to reduce energy use, greenhouse gas emissions, and demand for capital expenditures that serve solo driving; and

WHEREAS, after lengthy review and deliberations, the National Surface Transportation Policy and Revenue Commission released its report recommendations in January 2008, calling for significant reforms to the current federal surface transportation policy framework before the President and Congress commit new federal revenues to surface transportation needs, including accountability and performance measures; and

WHEREAS, the Commission's recommendations identified numerous shortcomings in the existing federal policy framework, urging reforms and other changes to ensure that metropolitan mobility needs are addressed through a new Metropolitan Mobility Program, existing transportation assets are kept in a state of good repair, intercity passenger, freight rail and other freight needs are more fully incorporated into the federal program, and safety is made a national priority with performance metrics and other requirements, among other proposals; and

WHEREAS, cities and other local governments in the nation's many metropolitan areas already account for a substantial proportion of U.S. economic growth, and are projected to capture an even larger share of the nation's future population and economic growth; and

WHEREAS, continued growth in these metropolitan economies will depend upon increasing commitments to transportation infrastructure and investment decisions that address the nation's energy and climate goals, , with local elected officials in their local areas and regions best positioned to decide these priorities,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors concurs with the National Surface Transportation Policy and Revenue Commission's recommendation that Congress and the President should provide additional revenues in support of the nation's surface transportation needs but only when necessary program reforms are incorporated into successor legislation to SAFETEA-LU; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to develop and implement a comprehensive, forward-looking federal vision for the nation's overall transportation policy to which tangible investment outcomes must be tied, as well as expanded data collection and transparency, in order to enable evidence-based decisions and greater accountability focused on improving economic productivity, the environment, and the range of transportation choices that allow personal mobility to access economic and social opportunities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that federal transportation policy and program decisions should reflect greater modal neutrality focused on achieving substantive outcomes, with more equivalent treatment in the assessment of both highway and transit capacity projects by applying comparable criteria and mechanisms, such as

investment studies that apply cost-benefit analyses and disclosure of long-term financial requirements, as well as lesser disparity in typical federal match by mode to reduce distortion of local decisions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors supports efforts to incorporate a Metropolitan Mobility Program, consistent with the recommendation of the National Commission, a new initiative that fully empowers local elected officials in metropolitan areas to allocate available resources and make project selection decisions among all surface transportation modes, with the share of federal transportation resources to states and/or within states calibrated to the economic output of these metropolitan areas; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that federal transportation funding decisions should place priority on local and state projects that reduce energy use and greenhouse gas emissions when utilizing available federal transportation resources, especially when investing in new system capacity, including proper weighting for the value of stimulating efficient, high-density transit-oriented development and its environmental benefits; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that current federal formula for apportioning funding among the states should be modified to ensure that it does not provide incentives for greater consumption versus conservation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in addition to user fees, Congress should consider other transportation financing strategies including how the federal government might reward greater state investment, modal neutrality in use of state transportation funds, and the potential value of federal capital budgeting approaches in infrastructure programs, creation of national bond funds, and other proposals, consistent with these reforms; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that public-private partnerships that support transportation priorities, including use of congestion pricing and variable tolling, also should be considered as potentially valuable tools in addressing congestion, travel demand management, and infrastructure investment needs, depending on local circumstances, but should be viewed in a holistic context and not simply for a financing objective; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that reforms should consider other incentives for a range of market-based demand management strategies such as commuter choice, car sharing, feebate

programs, location-efficiency, parking cash-out, and pay-as-you-drive (PAYD) auto insurance programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that other important reforms should include requiring maintenance of existing transportation assets in a state of good repair, standardizing of federal rules governing all new surface capacity investments (i.e., highways, transit, port connections, freight facilities and intercity rail), mainstreaming of planning and funding eligibilities for intercity passenger and freight rail projects, and applying new performance requirements to measure how program resources are being used, such as reductions in fatalities and injuries, household transportation expenditures, maintenance liabilities, congestion, unhealthy air quality, energy use, and greenhouse gas emissions.

FUNDING THE 2010 CENSUS

WHEREAS, Article I, Section 2 of the United States Constitution mandates a decennial census; and

WHEREAS, the United States Census Bureau is preparing to conduct the 2010 Census on April 1, 2010 to update census data which will be used to determine each state's congressional representation in Washington, D.C.; and

WHEREAS, data obtained from the 2010 Census will also be used to apportion billions of dollars in federal funds to both state and local governments which will have a direct, lasting, and substantive impact on state and local issues of importance—socio-economic, political, and educational—among many other matters; and

WHEREAS, the apportionment of federal funds based on census data will affect the standard of living of all municipal residents for many years following the completion of the census; and

WHEREAS, in previous census counts including 1980, 1990 and 2000, mayors across the nation have expressed grave concerns that high levels of low-income individuals have been undercounted and, as a direct result, cities have been deprived of millions of dollars owed to them in federal funds for critical programs, including those serving low-income families and the homeless; and

WHEREAS, in preparation for the 2010 Census, the United States Census Bureau has sought to reengineer the decennial census with three goals in mind: (1) to reduce operational risk; (2) improve the accuracy and relevance of data, and (3) contain overall cost of the census; and

WHEREAS, recent reports indicate that the United States Census Bureau is facing serious challenges that threaten the development of a sound, efficient and effective program which will ensure that each and every resident is counted on April 1, 2010; and

WHEREAS, U.S. Secretary of Commerce Carlos M. Guitierrez has recognized these challenges as being "unacceptable" and has opined that the U.S. Census Bureau "must immediately revamp some programs, refocus priorities and get on top of the challenges" to have a successful decennial census; and

WHEREAS, to better ensure a more accurate count in 2010, the President and the Congress should secure that the decennial census program receives the appropriate oversight and resources

it needs to address immediately the serious concerns raised by recent reports; and

WHEREAS, although Congress approved the President's budget request for fiscal year 2008 to enable the Census Bureau to continue its long-term planning for the 2010 Census, additional funds are now deemed necessary to revamp the program in time to ensure a successful census program;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges the President and Congress to immediately address the serious concerns raised regarding the operational, programmatic, and budgetary planning of the decennial census to ensure that an accurate count takes place on April 1, 2010; support adequate funding of the 2010 Census so that the necessary revamping and long-term, strategic planning highlighted by recent reports can commence immediately; ensure that the 2010 Census be designed to more accurately identify and count all segments of a city's population, including low-income individuals, the homeless, and immigrants; and secure that federal funds supporting low-income populations can be more accurately allocated among states and local communities.

2010 CENSUS PARTNERSHIPS

WHEREAS, the U.S. Census Bureau is required by the Constitution of the United States of America to conduct a count of the population every ten years, and provides a historic opportunity for The U.S. Conference of Mayors to help shape the foundation of our society and play an active role in American democracy; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors is committed to ensuring every resident is counted; and

WHEREAS, more than \$300 billion per year in federal and state funding is allocated to communities, and decisions are made on matters of national and local importance based on census data including healthcare, community development, energy, housing, education, transportation, social services, employment, and much more; and

WHEREAS, census data determine how many seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives as well as the redistricting of state legislatures, county and city councils and voting districts; and

WHEREAS, the 2010 Census will create hundreds of thousands of jobs across the nation; and

WHEREAS, every Census Bureau worker takes a lifetime oath to protect confidentiality and ensure that data identifying respondents or their household not be released or shared for 72 years; and

WHEREAS, a united voice from businesses, government, community-based and faith-based organizations, educators, media and other stakeholders will allow the 2010 Census message to reach a broader audience, providing trusted advocates who can spark positive conversations about the 2010 Census,

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

- Supports the goals and ideals for the 2010 Census and will disseminate 2010 Census information to encourage participation.

- Asks its affiliates and membership to partner with the U.S. Census Bureau and other stakeholders to achieve an accurate and complete count of all people in every community in the 2010 Census.
- Encourages all Mayors, particularly those who are members of The U.S. Conference of Mayors to participate in events and initiatives that will raise overall awareness of the 2010 Census and increase participation among all populations.

**MOBILE WORKFORCE STATE INCOME TAX FAIRNESS AND SIMPLIFICATION
ACT**

WHEREAS, at a time when local governments throughout the nation are experiencing a reduction in revenues due to the down turn in the economy fueled primarily by rising energy prices and the home mortgage foreclosure crisis; and

WHEREAS, the Mobile Workforce State Income Tax Fairness and Simplification Act was introduced in the House of Representatives in August 2007 and is currently pending subcommittee action; and

WHEREAS, the proposed legislation would prohibit state and local governments from taxing the income of non-resident workers performing duties within their borders for 60 days or less; and

WHEREAS, the House Subcommittee on Commercial and Administrative Law held hearings on the proposed legislation but did not invite The U.S. Conference of Mayors or any local group to testify on behalf of local elected officials to explain how the legislation would impact local revenues; and

WHEREAS, according to the Internal Revenue Service 17 states have cities and/or counties that levy taxes on mobile workers and over 600 cities and political subdivisions would be negatively affected by passage of this legislation resulting in hundreds of millions in lost revenue; and

WHEREAS, legislation preempting state and local taxing authority would curtail their ability to collect taxes and thereby infringing upon their ability to raise the necessary revenues to support their infrastructure and provide public safety and other critical services to support the well being of workers and city residents; and

WHEREAS, many cities that do not currently levy an earnings or income tax on non-resident workers do not want to have that option foreclosed in the future, considering the fact that most states have granted local governments very limited taxing authority; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors opposes any legislation that would preempt state and local governments' authority to levy earnings and income taxes on mobile workers and urges all members of Congress to oppose any efforts to pass such legislation.

REFORM OF THE CREDIT CARD INDUSTRY

WHEREAS, over 1.22 billion credit card accounts are in the U.S. representing about \$850 billion credit card debt; and

WHEREAS, the average credit card debit per household is \$7,430 and the average credit card debt per card-holding Household is \$8,568; and

WHEREAS, the average credit card debt per card-holding household that carries a balance is \$17,103; and

WHEREAS, the credit card industry mailed 5.2 billion solicitations in 2007, representing an average of 36 per household; and

WHEREAS, 35 percent of all credit card accounts (242 million cards) paid a late fee in 2005; and

WHEREAS, in 2005 the six largest credit card issuers had \$7.4 billion of income from penalty fees; and

WHEREAS, credit card issuers aggressively solicit young adults and college students; and

WHEREAS, many consumers are unaware of the conditions or powers credit card issuers have over their accounts to set interest rates, impose fees, and make other changes governing their accounts; and

WHEREAS, U.S. households now have a negative savings rate for the first time in our nation's history,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors calls upon Congress to pass legislation to reform and more closely regulate the credit card industry to protect the consumer from deceptive and unjust terms, interest rates and fees, by banning retroactive rate increases, ending unilateral adverse changes in terms for no reason, banning universal default in all forms, stopping late fees for payments mailed on time, and ending roll-over or repeat late and over-limit fees, among other reforms that protect the consumer, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that such reforms include a requirement that credit card issuers provide the consumer a more simplified disclosure of the terms and rates of credit card accounts and offers, and that deceptive credit card offers be banned; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the credit card industry be required to use sound underwriting principles based on the ability of consumers to pay.

ADDRESSING THE CONSUMER CREDIT CRISIS

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors recognizes escalating problem of consumer credit in the United States; and

WHEREAS, according to the Federal Reserve, the total debt by consumers increased by \$15.3 billion in the month of March 2008 alone, which is more than double what was expected; and

WHEREAS, according to a 2004 study conducted by the Federal Reserve, 46% of American households carry credit card debit; and

WHEREAS, almost 30% of households in the lowest income quintile also hold credit card debt, which is double the amount that held debt in 1989; and

WHEREAS, the increased inflation and harsh economic period in America has forced many Americans to increasingly rely on credit cards to make ends meet; and

WHEREAS, credit card companies have used questionable practices in their establishment of hidden fees, penalties for paying-off credit cards, and impenetrable credit card agreement language; and

WHEREAS, credit card debt among those that are 18 to 24 grew 22% between 1989 and 2004; and

WHEREAS, proposed federal legislation such as the Credit Card Holder's Bill of Rights and the CARD Act can work to provide assistance to credit card holders; and

WHEREAS, the current foreclosure crises is related to an overarching credit crises where credit has been issued to those with little to no financial literacy at exorbitant rates replete with hidden and excessive fees on predatory basis,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Conference of Mayors calls upon the U.S. Congress to pass legislation that:

- Provides further regulation and supervision of the credit card industry to ensure compliance with existing and new regulations;
- Prevents the credit card industry from changing terms of the contract and the interest rate in an inequitable manor;
- Encourages payments to be made to the balance with the higher interest rates and prohibits unreasonable deadlines;

- Requires credit card companies to provide a more reasonable means for a consumer to pay on time and not incur late fees;
- Ends duplicate and exorbitant fees charged by credit card companies;
- Increases the level of disclosure of terms that are entered into under the credit agreement;
- Provides greater protection for those under the age of 21 when entering into a credit card agreement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Mayors examine what credit counseling services their cities can provide to those that are victims of predatory credit practices such as, but not limited to, call-in credit help centers, credit/personal finance workshops, and/or official action taken against those companies that continually engage in deceptive practices.

**TAX REFORM TO PROMOTE RENEWABLE ENERGY PRODUCTION, ENERGY
EFFICIENCY AND GREEN FEDERAL TAX CODE**

WHEREAS, the United States, as the world's largest economy, must lead the way in responding to the global warming crisis; and

WHEREAS, the United States produces approximately 25% of the world's greenhouse gas emissions but represents only about 4 percent of the world's population; and

WHEREAS, the United Nation's report on Climate Change calls for dramatic action on the part of the world's governments to implement renewable energy production facilities and to adopt as soon as possible energy efficiency retrofits; and

WHEREAS, recent scientific measurements indicate that the polar ice caps and glaciers are melting faster than previous scientific modeling and forecasts predicted; and

WHEREAS, the nation's metro economies represent 85.7% of the nation's employment; 89.9% of the nation's labor income; and 86.7% of the nation's gross domestic product; and

WHEREAS, when compared to other nations, U.S. metros represent 42 of the world's largest economies; and

WHEREAS, historically our national government has used the federal tax code to encourage investment and implementation of technologies that meet priority national needs,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors supports the "greening" of our tax code by passing tax reform that provides preferences to technologies and investments that reduce the emission of dangerous greenhouse gases, while eliminating or reducing those tax preferences that result in such emissions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to adopt legislation that would increase production of renewable electricity by making permanent and expanding the renewable energy production tax credit, the solar energy and fuel cell investment tax credit, the residential energy-efficient property credit; in addition to authorizing new, clean, renewable energy bonds, public power providers and electric cooperatives; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Congress adopt legislation to promote the production of renewable fuels by creating a cellulosic alcohol production credit, and extending the biodiesel production tax credit and the alternative refueling stations tax credit; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Congress adopt legislation to reduce our dependence on foreign oil by establishing a plug-in hybrid vehicle credit; creating fringe benefits for bicycle commuters; and increasing the fringe benefits for public transit users; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Congress adopt legislation to create a new category of tax credit bonds for green community programs and initiatives, allocated to states and cities; extend and expand tax credits for energy-efficiency improvement for existing homes; extend and expand the deduction for existing building energy-efficiency improvements and for smart metering.

SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A "GREEN" ECONOMY

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors has passed several resolutions calling on all levels of government to pursue environmentally sustainable municipal practices; and

WHEREAS, "green building" and other sustainable practices will support growth in all sectors of our economy; and

WHEREAS, the Green Jobs Act was signed into law on December 19, 2007, providing funding for workforce training linked to jobs in sustainable industries such as renewable energy and energy efficiency; and

WHEREAS, a leading cause for increased recidivism, poverty, and crime is a lack of jobs that pay a livable wage; and

WHEREAS, one of the most essential elements of a "green" economy will involve increasing the production of energy from sustainable sources and retrofitting existing buildings to be more energy efficient; and

WHEREAS, the promotion of energy policies based on energy efficiency and on renewable sources will not only help our economy, but will do so in a healthy and clean way, saving our cities billions in ancillary costs such as healthcare, infrastructure decay, climate change mitigation and waste management; and

WHEREAS, according to the American Wind Energy Association, adding 30,000 megawatts of wind energy to our capacity by 2010 could reduce carbon emissions to our atmosphere by 100 million tons; and

WHEREAS, according to a National Renewable Energy Laboratory study, a Photovoltaic system meeting half of the electrical needs of a typical household would eliminate approximately half a ton of sulfur dioxide pollution from the air, and 600 pounds of nitrogen oxides; and

WHEREAS, green jobs and sustainable methods of producing energy make-up an increasing percentage of the economy. According to the Union of Concerned Scientists, 117,000 jobs in wind and solar energy production can be sustained with tax credits aimed toward that industry,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the United States Conference of Mayors calls upon the U.S. Congress to extend the Wind Production Tax Credit, Solar Investment Tax Credit, and the

Energy Efficiency Tax Credit as soon as possible so that 117,000 jobs in that sector can be secured in 2009; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the USCM calls upon the U.S. Congress to fund the programs passed in the Green Jobs Act to their full authorization level for FY 2009; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the USCM calls upon the U.S. Congress to allocate additional funding for the development of new green businesses and workforce development programs for the new energy economy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that members of the USCM will take steps to better implement and increase the opportunities for green jobs development in their cities such as: 1) competing for the Pathways Out of Poverty Demonstration Grant to fund green jobs for the economically disadvantaged; 2) institute solar alternative power initiatives that increase the number of solar cells attached to our power grids, implement energy efficiency capital improvements, and make use of other energy forms such as wind power or geothermal; and 3) work with the business community to form green job councils in our cities that can best direct human resources to growing green industries.

SUPPORT OF RENEWABLE ENERGY TAX INCENTIVES

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors recognizes the importance of federal energy tax incentives that promote renewable and alternative energy projects in order to help fight climate change, secure our nation's energy supply, and reduce our dependence on foreign sources of oil; and

WHEREAS, the renewable Production Tax Credit, to support electricity generation through biomass, wind, geothermal, solar, and other sources; the Investment Tax Credit, for residential and business alternative energy installations; and the Clean Renewable Energy Bond program for public utilities are all set to expire on December 31, 2008; and

WHEREAS, it is recognized that sporadic, short-term extensions by Congress (even allowing for periodic lapses of the Production Tax Credit) has made renewable and alternative energy advocates increasingly anxious as the newest year-end expiration date approaches; and

WHEREAS, these short-term tax extensions deter advanced development and rapid deployment of projects by making it more difficult to appropriately plan for, and adequately secure longer term funding of renewable energy projects to better compete with more traditional and less expensive fossil fuel energy sources; and

WHEREAS, in order to best promote and advance renewable energy technologies and their widespread deployment, the certainty of a multi-year extension would most benefit the industry, speed renewable project development, utilize clean domestic energy resources, and promote American jobs at a time of record energy prices and local or state commitments towards increasing the use of renewable resources; and

WHEREAS, renewable energy tax incentives are critically important for the emerging alternative energy industry sector, where continued federal funding can help in the development and deployment of initially higher-costs technologies - ultimately driving down consumers costs; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors believes Congress must act now to promote clean renewable energy to best advance the

nation's ability to meet a federal climate change program and reduce greenhouse gas emissions,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors hereby urges Congress to approve legislation that offers a five-year extension of renewable energy tax credits, currently set to expire on December 31, 2008, to enable expedited activities that advance renewable energy projects, help fight climate change, and promote domestic jobs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors calls upon Congress to work with local leaders to ensure that Clean Renewable Energy Bond program modifications are made to benefit public sector applicants on a more equitable basis.

**METRO ECONOMIES GREEN INITIATIVE:
SUPPORTING EMERGING MODELS OF EXCELLENCE**

WHEREAS, the Brookings Institution reports that the 100 largest U.S. metropolitan areas contain 65% of the nation's population and 68% of its jobs, generating three-quarters of the nation's gross domestic product; and

WHEREAS, metro economies are reported to gather even larger shares of innovative activity (78% of U.S. patent activity), educated workers (75% of graduate degree holders), and critical infrastructure (79% of U.S. air cargo); and

WHEREAS, while employment within the manufacturing sector has remained relatively constant since 1950, manufacturing jobs now account for a significantly smaller percentage of the American workforce (31% of U.S. non-farm employment in 1950, as compared to just over 10% in 2007); and

WHEREAS, an increasingly competitive global workforce and multinational supply chains within traditional manufacturing industries continue to threaten American economic competitiveness abroad and basic job security and individual self-sufficiency throughout the nation; and

WHEREAS, projections from the U.S. Census Bureau demonstrate that non-Hispanic whites will represent less than half of the nation's prime working-age (25 to 64) population by 2050, with African Americans and Hispanics accounting for more than 90% of total growth in that age range during the next 40 years; and

WHEREAS, persons from these communities are largely concentrated in metropolitan areas and remain disproportionately affected by numerous challenges related to education, employment, and incarceration; and

WHEREAS, metro communities remain beset by disproportionate high school dropout rates, with the EPE Research Center reporting that nearly 40% of the nation's 50 largest metropolitan areas suffer high school graduation rates below 50%; and

WHEREAS, minority student populations are particularly likely to demonstrate elevated high school dropout rates, with African American and Latino students demonstrating graduation rates below 60% nationally; and

WHEREAS, the Center for Labor Market Studies has reported that a black male high school dropout will on average receive nearly \$190,000 more in government benefits than he will pay in payroll and income taxes throughout the course of his work life; and

WHEREAS, programs intended to provide high school students unlikely to pursue baccalaureate study with a means to transition from secondary studies to high-skill employment are a vital means to provide these students with tools for lifelong self-sufficiency; and

WHEREAS, according to the National Institute of Literacy, 70% of all prisoners function at the lowest literacy levels and less than 32% of State prison inmates have a high school diploma or a higher level of education; and

WHEREAS, According to the Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, nearly 650,000 – about 1,600 a day – people are released from Federal and State incarceration into communities nationwide each year, with the majority of these individuals returning to the nation’s metro communities; and

WHEREAS, transitional jobs programs have proven to help individuals with criminal records to return successfully to the workplace and to the community, and therefore can reduce recidivism; and

WHEREAS, these programs, along with traditional technical training programs, and emerging green industries provide at-risk individuals within our nation’s metro communities with concrete opportunities for long-term economic self-sufficiency; and

WHEREAS, the American Solar Energy Society estimates that, in 2006 alone, more than 8 million Americans worked in green industries, generating \$933 billion of revenue; and

WHEREAS, the Society further estimates that these industries can account for more than 40 million American jobs by 2030, generating over \$4.5 trillion in annual revenue; and

WHEREAS, green industries promote employment opportunities that are necessarily local. As such, jobs within emerging green industries offer sustainable employment opportunities to Americans for decades to come,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors encourages Congress, through consideration of legislation addressing global climate change, to authorize programs within the Department of Housing and Urban Development to target designated funding resources to metro communities meeting certain criteria to enable these communities to undertake model green industry economic and workforce development programs of excellence; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that, among such programs, the U.S. Conference of Mayors will support federal efforts to authorize and fund the following initiatives:

- Metro Area Green Zones - to support exemplary low-carbon workforce and economic development efforts already underway throughout the nation and establish best practice data consistent with efforts to provide stable employment in emerging green industries to formerly incarcerated, low-income, and difficult-to-employ populations;
- The Metro Area Green Institute - to serve as a clearinghouse for low-carbon economic development efforts nationally, compiling and disseminating data gleaned through the Metro Area Green Zones program and providing technical assistance to local and municipal green job creation/workforce development programs throughout the country;
- Mini-Metro Green Grants - to expand and enhance the reach and relevance of activities undertaken by Metro Area Green Zones and the Metro Area Green Institute to ensure the robust participation of smaller, developing municipalities in low-carbon workforce and economic development; and,
- Alternative Green Academies - to enable local municipalities to partner with not-for-profit organizations, local education agencies, community and technical colleges, and trade associations, and local businesses to provide low-carbon job training, employment opportunities, and other life skills to high school dropouts, formerly incarcerated youth, and students for whom a 4-year higher education is either undesirable or impossible.

INSURANCE RATES ON MUNICIPAL BONDS

WHEREAS, the availability and cost of credit for municipalities has a corresponding impact on their ability to provide needed infrastructure and other projects to their residents; and

WHEREAS, bond rating agencies hold municipal bonds to an unnecessarily higher standard than corporate issuers; and

WHEREAS, this disparate treatment means that cities and other governmental entities are judged differently than private sector corporations with similar credit histories; and

WHEREAS, bond ratings should be based on the risk that the issuer will default and the investor will lose money, but ratings for local governments have little to do with risk; and

WHEREAS, for example, municipal bonds rated BAA by Moodys Investor Services Inc. have had a default rate of only 0.13 percent, while corporate bonds rated AAA by Moodys Investor Services Inc. have defaulted 0.52 percent, or four times that rate; and

WHEREAS, this differential treatment undermines the functioning of an efficient and transparent capital market and misleads investors by greatly inflating the risk of owning municipal bonds and costs taxpayers billions in increased interest costs and bond insurance premiums; and

WHEREAS the system used by bond rating agencies to grade municipal bonds has recently come under scrutiny by the House Committee on Financial Services, whose Chairman recently noted, "Municipal bonds are among the safest—second only to US Treasuries—in terms of losses to investors",

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors applauds the efforts of the Chairman of the House Financial Services Committee, to hold hearings on this issue and explore legislative remedies which would assist municipal bond issuers in this area; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors looks forward to working with legislative leaders in the House and Senate, the Securities and Exchange Commission and the bond rating agencies to develop workable solutions to this problem.

MUNICIPAL AUCTION RATES SECURITIES

WHEREAS, local governments are very concerned about the current market turmoil in the municipal bond industry; and

WHEREAS, these difficulties impose additional and unnecessary costs on cities of all sizes which are borne by taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, these problems have nothing to do with the credit worthiness or soundness of local governments but rather have been caused by actions of the private sector; and

WHEREAS, auction rate securities, traditional long-term securities with short-term demand features, are among the biggest problems cities now face in the credit market; and

WHEREAS, in the current market environment auction rate securities - with interest rates reset on a daily, 7-day, 28-day, 35-day or longer term basis - do not have enough investors to purchase the securities that holders of these securities want to sell, the end result being a failed auction; and

WHEREAS, there is neither a problem with these securities underlying credit nor with the credit worthiness of the issuers themselves; and

WHEREAS, Bloomberg News reports that government issuers are paying over \$1 billion in fees to convert these auction rate securities into other instruments, as a result of the collapse of the auction rate securities market, and these increased costs will delay or possibly eliminate needed infrastructure projects in cities; and

WHEREAS, a variety of legislative and regulatory changes could restore the viability of auction rates securities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors seeks to work with House and Senate legislative leaders, the Securities and Exchange Commission, other regulatory agencies as appropriate and the private sector to develop workable solutions to the auction-rate securities problem; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors establish a Municipal Bond Task Force to monitor ongoing developments in the bond field, including auction rates instruments, develop solutions, help organize Mayoral action in Washington to bring about needed reforms and work with the Congress, regulatory agencies and other national organizations towards stability in the auction rate market and well as in other related areas.

**OPPOSING RESTRICTIONS ON LOCAL USE OF TAX-EXEMPT BONDS FOR
PUBLICLY-OWNED PROFESSIONAL SPORTS FACILITIES**

WHEREAS, language was inserted into the Senate version of the Food and Energy Security Act of 2007, in order to provide a revenue offset for an unrelated tax incentive, that would have prohibited the use of tax-exempt bond financing for professional sports facilities; and

WHEREAS, such proposed legislation represents a dangerous precedent for federal intrusion into state and local governments' financing decisions by dictating the types of projects that state and local governments may finance through tax-exempt bonds; and

WHEREAS, the proposed legislation even prohibits use of tax-exempt bond financing for mixed-purpose facilities that occasionally are used by professional sports teams, including minor league teams and events; and

WHEREAS, sports facilities and mixed-purpose facilities used for professional sports events often serve as an important stimulus for local economic development; and

WHEREAS, by eliminating tax-exempt financing for sports facilities, the cost to state and local taxpayers for building new sports facilities or rehabilitating existing ones would be dramatically increased or possibly become unaffordable,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges members of Congress to oppose legislation that would impose limitations on state and local governments' use of tax-exempt bond financing.

SUPPORTING SUSTAINABLE INVESTMENT INITIATIVES

WHEREAS, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the international community's respected assembly of scientists, has found that human activities are largely responsible for increasing concentrations of greenhouse gas pollutants in the atmosphere and resulting climate change; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors has taken action to combat climate change, including the establishment of the U.S. Conference of Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement, signed by over 830 mayors representing over 79 million Americans; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. building sector is responsible for 48 percent of greenhouse gas emissions in the United States, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors and the American Institute of Architects have called for immediate energy reduction of all new and renovated buildings to one-half the national average for that building type, with increased reductions of 10 percent every five years so that by the year 2030 all new buildings will be carbon neutral; and

WHEREAS, federal, state and local governments have adopted green building standards for construction of public buildings and many jurisdictions are now expanding green building standards to commercial and residential buildings in their communities; and

WHEREAS, public-private partnerships that utilize market mechanisms to advance green building activity in the US are essential to ensure that environmental building standards can be raised while at the same time growing our national economy; and

WHEREAS, major investment banks, institutional investors and governments, led by the City and County of San Francisco and JPMorgan Chase, have worked together to advance the Capital Markets Partnership's Sustainable Investment Initiative that will generate unprecedented market investment in green buildings constructed in the US; and

WHEREAS, this partnership has completed a peer reviewed report called 'Creating Economic Stimulus While Stopping Climate Credit Risk/Irreversibility' that demonstrates that climate induced property damages have caused increases of 100 to 600 percent in insurance rates and also reduced availability of coverage, and have caused rating agencies to conclude that these developments have "serious credit implications"; and

WHEREAS, this report identifies investment products, including mortgage-backed securities exclusively for green buildings, that can be developed to increase investment in green buildings, decrease credit risk in the current investment environment, and help to decrease greenhouse gas emissions from the U.S. building industry; and

WHEREAS, the Partnership will be launching the Green Building Investment Underwriting Standards and Sustainable Mortgage Backed Securities initiatives at the New York Stock Exchange, which will generate investments projected to assist in the building of over two million green buildings and one million certified sustainable products by 2015, add one trillion dollars per year to the economy, and stop/prevent imminent, irreversible and dangerous climate change,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors supports the efforts of the Capital Markets Partnership's Sustainable Investment Initiative to generate market investment in high performance green buildings through Sustainable Mortgage Backed Securities that will stimulate the economy and combat climate change, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors encourages additional public-private partnerships to increase market investment in environmental innovation and climate protection.

**PROTECTING MAIN STREET SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS FROM PREDATORY
LENDERS**

WHEREAS, America's 26.8 million small businesses are the engine of the U.S. economy, employing half of all private-sector employees, representing 99.7% of all employers, and responsible for 45% of net new jobs generated annually in the last decade; and

WHEREAS, eight million of these small businesses pursue financing each year throughout the United States; and

WHEREAS, 65% of these eight million (5.2 million) are unable to secure traditional bank loans or lines of credit; and

WHEREAS, as a result, many small businesses use family money, personal credit cards or personal loans and approximately 35% have relied on home-equity loans to finance their businesses; and

WHEREAS, the recent turmoil in both the housing and credit markets has caused banks to tighten their lending criteria and consequently, credit opportunities to small business owners have been significantly reduced; and

WHEREAS, a perfect storm has emerged across the United States, leaving many small businesses, including millions throughout the main streets of our cities and towns, struggling to access the capital they need to sustain and grow their businesses; and

WHEREAS, predatory lenders have emerged to exploit the current credit environment and increasing cash flow needs of small businesses and are selling usurious products known as merchant cash advances (MCA), which are advances on a business's future credit card receivables (aka "factoring of future credit card sales"); and

WHEREAS, merchant cash advances are not loans and do *not* have to follow state or federal lending regulations, and feature over 85% approval rates and imputed annual percentage rates as high as 200%, and in addition to these egregious rates, require daily deductions of 18-25% of the small business's credit card sales - significantly more than a business can afford; and

WHEREAS, merchant cash advance companies have already lent approximately \$2 billion at egregious rates and have been quoted in leading main stream media publications such as *Forbes*, *Business Week*, *Dallas Morning News*, and *American Banker* claiming that their new originations have increased 75% in the first half of 2008; and

WHEREAS, America's cities need strong Main Street businesses to continue to have a stable tax base, safe streets and a vibrant commercial center, and

WHEREAS, as with payday lenders and predatory lenders in the home mortgage community, Mayors need to take a leadership role to scrutinize predatory merchant cash advance companies, educate small business owners of the dangers posed by these firms, and increase awareness and promotion of alternative, more affordable funding sources to support this vital segment of our economy; and

WHEREAS, the mayor in each of our cities can protect our small businesses by promoting and advising small business owners to ask and have answered five simple questions before agreeing to accept any type of financing from a non-traditional provider:

- a. Is the financing product a regulated loan?
- b. What is the total interest paid and how does that cost translate into an Annual Percentage Rate (APR)?
- c. What is the payment amount?
- d. What is the payment frequency?
- e. Exactly how long will it take to repay the loan?

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors strongly supports small businesses and the independent business owners located in our cities and will protect them from predatory lenders offering exploitive merchant cash advances; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the mayor in each of our cities shall educate Main Street business owners and the small business community of the dangers of merchant cash advances and promote to them alternative lending sources that are more affordable; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that to protect the general health and viability of their small business communities, cities should investigate whether they can effectively regulate or ban merchant cash advances.

NATIONAL SAVE FOR RETIREMENT WEEK

WHEREAS, there are significant mega-trends facing our municipal employees as they plan for retirement, including the rising costs of retirement, the increased lifespan of retirees, and the capacity of Social Security to cover costs; and

WHEREAS, municipal employees have an opportunity to save for retirement in deferred compensation plans that help reduce tax burdens during retirement and increase a retiree's financial resources; and

WHEREAS, only 34% of eligible public-sector workers participate in their deferred compensation plan compared to 70% among private-sector employees; and

WHEREAS, all municipal workers can benefit from increased awareness of the need to save for retirement and the availability of tax-advantaged retirement savings vehicles to help them in saving for retirement,

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

- supports National Save for Retirement Week, designated by Congress from October 19 to October 25, 2008;
- supports the goals and ideals of National Save for Retirement Week, including raising municipal employee awareness about the importance of adequate retirement savings and the availability of 457 deferred compensation programs; and
- calls upon all mayors to actively promote retirement savings among municipal employees, open their cities to workshops by qualified deferred compensation companies to help employees understand the importance of saving for retirement and the tools and options available to them, and actively promote National Save for Retirement Week in conjunction with the U.S. Conference of Mayors in the months leading up to and during the week.

MAYORS' NATIONAL DOLLAR WISE CAMPAIGN

WHEREAS, The United States Conference of Mayors and its member mayors, led by our Council for the New American City, have been engaged in increasing Americans' financial literacy since 2004 through the Mayors' National Dollar Wise Campaign; and

WHEREAS, Dollar Wise invites all cities and mayors in the United States and its territories to register in the Campaign; to adopt increasing their residents' financial literacy as local government policy; and to organize local coalitions with government agencies, nonprofit organizations, financial institutions, faith-based groups, the private sector, and others that are involved in building financial capability; and

WHEREAS, the Mayors' National Dollar Wise Campaign and cities across America will celebrate the fifth annual Dollar Wise Week September 20-27, 2008, with community events, activities, and workshops focusing on encouraging Americans to reverse the trend of living beyond their means and setting aside minimal money in savings; and

WHEREAS, financial literacy and savings enable individuals and families to prosper in times of economic growth and to weather the storm during an economic downturn; and

WHEREAS, financial education is essential to helping the American consumer not to fall prey to deceptive lending practices or complicated financial instruments, mortgage products offered by the industry that led to the current mortgage crisis and subsequent economic difficulty; and

WHEREAS, local governments have the ability to lead the way on financial education because it is at the local level where the real groundwork of educating the public takes place; and

WHEREAS, improved policy, funding, and participation by government at all levels—local, state, and federal—is the greatest deliberate institutional change the United States and its leaders can make in our efforts to increase Americans' financial capability; and

WHEREAS, so doing will help them become full partakers of the American Dream; bolster our citizens' financial independence; build up prosperous, contributing members of our communities and society; and ensure financial security for themselves and their children, thereby increasing opportunities for homeownership, education, and overall economic inclusion,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors calls on federal, state, and local governments to work together and with their nongovernmental partners in a coordinated effort to raise America's standard of financial literacy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we urge the federal government to provide greater support for financial education by using at least a portion of the federally-imposed fees, fines, penalties, and other revenue from financial institutions to provide funding for locally-based, financial education programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we advocate that all state governments require personal economic and financial education as a prerequisite for high-school graduation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we invite all our fellow cities, mayors, and other municipal governments and local officials to give priority to increasing the financial literacy of their citizens and bolstering and promoting local initiatives to that end.

FEDERAL HOME LOAN BANKS

WHEREAS, Federal Home Loan Banks (FHLBanks) are 12 regional government sponsored enterprises (GSEs) chartered by Congress in 1932 to provide liquidity to their 8,100 financial institution members across the country ensuring the available funding for affordable housing and community development; and

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

WHEREAS, FHLBanks, through their Affordable Housing Program, have helped rehabilitate neighborhoods by providing over \$3 billion in grants for affordable housing projects since 1990; and

WHEREAS, the housing mission of the FHLBanks has been expanded by Congressional and regulatory action to include providing resources for community and economic development; and

WHEREAS, Section 149(b) of the Internal Revenue Code permits GSEs such as the Federal National Mortgage Association and the Government National Mortgage Association to issue letters of credit on tax exempt bonds while excluding FHLBanks; and

WHEREAS, amending Section 149(b) by adding the FHLBanks to the list of GSEs would allow the FHLBanks to better carry out their ongoing mission of supporting housing and community and economic development lending; and

WHEREAS, obtaining credit enhancement from highly-rated FHLBanks, through their members for tax exempt bonds would significantly lower the costs to cities and therefore increase their capacity to create jobs and generate new tax revenue; and

WHEREAS, proposed legislation amending Section 149, passed by the U.S. House has been scored by the Joint Tax Committee at only \$120 million over ten years, a loss of revenue that will be recouped many times over by local economic development,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges the Congress to pass an amendment to Section 149(b) of the Internal Revenue Code adding "any letter of credit issued by a FHLBank" to the list of permissible letters of credit enhancing tax exempt bonds; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors support legislation, regulatory changes and other initiatives designed to expand the ability of FHLBanks to serve the housing,

community and economic development and public finance needs of cities through their investment authority, introduction of new business activities, and development of new initiatives.

REAUTHORIZATION OF THE BROWNFIELDS LAW

WHEREAS, brownfields are abandoned or underutilized properties sites whose redevelopment is hindered by either real or perceived environmental contamination; and

WHEREAS, the redevelopment of brownfield sites have been a priority for The U.S. Conference of Mayors for the past 15 years; and

WHEREAS, much progress has been made in redeveloping these sites, particularly after the enactment of the Small Business Liability and Brownfields Redevelopment Act of 2002, there is still an estimated 400-600 thousand brownfield sites throughout the nation; and

WHEREAS, brownfield sites are opportunities for economic development, job creation, and environmental improvements within the nation's communities; and

WHEREAS, EPA has invested about \$800 million in the assessment and cleanup of brownfields since 1995, leveraging more than \$9 billion in cleanup and redevelopment monies - a return of more than ten to one, and resulting in the assessment of more than 8,000 properties;

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors' research indicates that over 186,000 jobs have been created and over \$400 million in tax revenues have been generated;

WHEREAS, the nation's mayors recognize that additional tools are necessary to help accelerate the number of cleanups and redevelopments; and

WHEREAS, the Small Business Liability and Brownfields Redevelopment Act of 2002 was technically authorized for only 5 years, and the need for reauthorization presents an opportunity to re-evaluate and propose improvements that will hasten cleanup and redevelopment of these contaminated and abandoned properties,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Congress should reauthorize the Brownfields Law and make improvements to the law by increasing EPA's overall funding for brownfields grants, beginning with \$350 million in FY08 and increasing by \$50 million annually to a total of \$600 million and beyond; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Congress should increase EPA's funding limit for cleanup of a single site to up to \$1 million and under special circumstances, EPA could waive the limit and go up to \$2 million per site; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Congress should allow EPA to grant eligible entities the option to apply for multi-purpose grants (of up to \$1.5 million) that can be used for the full range of brownfield-funded activities (assessment, cleanup, reuse planning, etc,) on an area-wide or community-wide basis; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Congress should authorize \$20 million for brownfield pilots that demonstrate sustainable reuse, green buildings, and alternative energy and allow use of funds for site assessments, cleanup, site planning, feasibility analysis, and engineering studies related to environmentally beneficial site improvements, such as, high performance/green buildings, green infrastructure, ecosystem restoration, and/or renewable energy production; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Congress should allow EPA grantees that seek to use assessment, cleanup or multi-purpose grants on sites with petroleum contamination should not be required to make the difficult demonstrations that the site is "low risk" and that there is "no viable responsible party" connected with the site but rather replace the "No Viable Responsible Party" language with a prohibition on using funds to pay for cleanup costs for which the recipient of the grant is potentially liable under the petroleum statutes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Congress should create greater flexibility in use of grant funds by eliminating the currently defined set-aside of total grant funding for petroleum brownfields and instead substituting a new "Ranking Criteria" that gives some weight to petroleum-contaminated sites; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Congress should allow local government applicants to obtain funding at sites acquired prior to the January 11, 2002 enactment of the Brownfields Revitalization Act - when there was no required standard for "all appropriate inquiries" - provided that the applicant did not cause or contribute to the contamination and performed "appropriate care" -- for these sites, applicants would not have to demonstrate that they performed all appropriate inquiry; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Congress should clarify that non-profits and related community development entities are eligible to receive brownfields assessment, cleanup, revolving loan fund,

and job training grants. Currently non-profits are only eligible for cleanup and job training grants; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Congress should exempt local and state government from CERCLA liability if the government unit

- owns a brownfield as defined by section 101(39);
- did not cause or contribute to contamination on the property; and
- exercises due care with regard to any known contamination at the site; alternative language would amend section 101(20)
- to clarify that properties acquired through eminent domain qualify for the CERCLA exemption for local governments involved in "Involuntary Acquisitions."