

ADOPTED RESOLUTIONS

79th ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF MAYORS
Baltimore, MD - June 17-21, 2011

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CHILDREN, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

IN SUPPORT OF PRESIDENT OBAMA'S 2011 PRESCRIPTION DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION PLAN

WHEREAS, mayors are familiar with the consequences of our nation's fastest growing drug problem, prescription drug abuse, including the impact this epidemic has on our nation's metropolitan areas; and

WHEREAS, recently classified as an epidemic by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, prescription drug abuse is a serious health concern that is continuing to increase; and

WHEREAS, between 2004 and 2008, the estimated number of emergency department visits linked to the non-medical use of prescription pain relievers doubled; and

WHEREAS, the increase in the percentage of admissions for abuse of pain relievers spans every age, gender, race, ethnicity, education, employment level, and region; and

WHEREAS, many individuals who misuse prescription drugs, particularly teens and some parents, believe these substances are safer than illicit drugs because they are prescribed by a healthcare professional and dispensed by a pharmacist; and

WHEREAS, according to the 2008 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, among persons aged 12 or older who used pain relievers non-medically in the past 12 months, 55.9 percent got the pain relievers they most recently used from a friend or relative for free; and

WHEREAS, drug-induced deaths now outnumber gunshot deaths in America and are fast approaching motor vehicle crashes as the leading cause of injury death; and

WHEREAS, the Obama Administration recognizes the need to balance prevention, education, and enforcement, with the need for legitimate access to these controlled substances; and

WHEREAS, the 2011 Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention Plan reflects a national consultation process through which the Director of National Drug Control Policy consulted with mayors, health care professionals, law enforcement officials and other local community leaders to identify the best approaches to use in combating prescription drug abuse; and

WHEREAS, as a result of numerous visits to communities ravaged by prescription drug abuse, President Obama's Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention Plan reflects a multifaceted approach that brings together a variety of federal, state, local, and tribal entities; and

WHEREAS, the Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention Plan highlights four elements to help reduce the abuse of prescription drugs: education, prescription drug monitoring programs, proper medication disposal, and enforcement; and

WHEREAS, the policies outlined in the Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention Plan, when implemented, should reduce public spending while improving public health,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors endorses the approaches outlined in the Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention Plan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Conference of Mayors applauds the Plan's call to:

- Educate parents, youth, and patients about the dangers of abusing prescription drugs while requiring prescribers to receive education on the appropriate and safe use, and proper storage and disposal of prescription drugs;
- Implement and enhance prescription drug monitoring programs (PDMPs) in every state;
- Decrease the supply of unused prescription drugs in the home by developing convenient and environmentally responsible prescription drug disposal programs;
- Provide law enforcement with the tools necessary to eliminate improper prescribing practices and stop "doctor shopping" and drug-seeking behaviors.

ELIMINATING CONTRABAND TOBACCO SALES

WHEREAS, tobacco use is the foremost preventable cause of disease and premature death in America, and a major contributor to several of the leading causes of death among Americans, including heart disease, cancer, stroke and hypertension, and tobacco use causes more than 400,000 deaths in the United States each year, and nearly nine million Americans have chronic illnesses related to smoking; and

WHEREAS, tobacco use costs the economy millions of dollars in health care expenses and lost productivity; and

WHEREAS, the use of tobacco products by the nation's youth results in new generations of tobacco-dependent children and adults; and

WHEREAS, increased tobacco taxes have been associated with lower overall smoking rates and lower youth smoking rates in particular; and

WHEREAS, contraband tobacco sales undercut the public health gains of higher tobacco taxes; and

WHEREAS, contraband sale of tobacco is estimated to comprise a significant portion of tobacco sales, particularly in places with high tobacco taxes; and

WHEREAS, tax evasion by producers, distributors, wholesalers and retailers takes significant potential revenue from state and local governments, which could be used to fund tobacco prevention and cessation programs; and

WHEREAS, proceeds from contraband tobacco sales have been found to support other illegal activities, including terrorism activities against the United States, racketeering, and other organized crime;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges the Congress to support efforts by federal, state and local governments to curtail contraband tobacco sales by effecting measures to reduce sales of untaxed and under-taxed tobacco, end illegal high-volume interstate sales, and increase inspection and enforcement of existing laws; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges the Congress to enact legislation directed at reducing contraband tobacco sales, such as the Smuggled Tobacco Prevention Act introduced in prior sessions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges the Congress to support the implementation of a national encrypted tobacco tax stamp; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges the Congress to support the FDA's efforts to exercise its authority to "track and trace" tobacco products as

authorized under the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act (Tobacco Control Act) (Public Law 111-31).

COMBATING CHILDHOOD OBESITY BY STRENGTHENING PHYSICAL FITNESS EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES

WHEREAS, over the last 20 years, the childhood obesity rate has more than doubled, and the adolescent obesity rate has tripled; and

WHEREAS, 31.8 percent or 23,000,000 children and teenagers ages 2 to 19 are obese or overweight, a statistic that health and medical experts consider an epidemic; and

WHEREAS, childhood obesity is preventable yet does not appear to be declining; and

WHEREAS, obese young people have an 80 percent chance of being obese adults and are more likely than children of normal weight to become overweight or obese adults; and

WHEREAS, obese young adults are more likely to develop cardiovascular disease, type II diabetes, asthma, sleep apnea, and various forms of cancer; and

WHEREAS, researchers suggest that the childhood obesity epidemic is largely due to a decline in regular physical activity and a diet high in unhealthy foods; and

WHEREAS, participating in physical activity is important for children and teens as it may have beneficial effects not only on body weight, but also on blood pressure and bone strength; and

WHEREAS, young people who get more exercise throughout the day are more fit, more focused in the classroom, and get better sleep; and

WHEREAS, Mayors across this nation have championed the cause of childhood obesity prevention by raising awareness and implementing local programs and policies to address the issue of childhood obesity; and

WHEREAS, public programs including Let's Move! and HealthierUS School Challenge, recognize the importance of creating healthier school environments through promotion of nutrition and physical activity; and

WHEREAS, legislation including the Fitness Integrated with Teaching Kids Act (HR 1057) sponsored by Representative Ron Kind and the Healthy Lifestyles and Prevention America Act (S 174) sponsored by Senator Tom Harkin, would provide cities and schools with resources to ensure kids are active during the school day and are given opportunities that promote overall health and wellness; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, US Conference of Mayors member Cities commit to participating in a nationwide effort to combat childhood obesity through their own efforts and funded programs and initiatives such as Let's Move! and HealthierUS School Challenge.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, US Conference of Mayors supports legislation that would combat childhood obesity by promoting healthy and active lifestyles, developing physical fitness

and wellness initiatives, and authorizing funding opportunities to local governments for such purposes.

Projected cost: Unknown

IN SUPPORT OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the United States Conference of Mayors has a strong commitment to improving the lives of our most vulnerable populations; and

WHEREAS, the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) provides formula funding to the States, the District of Columbia, Indian tribes and other US territories to alleviate the causes and conditions of poverty; and

WHEREAS, those that benefit from CSBG include low-income individuals that may be unemployed or receiving public assistance, including Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), at-risk youth, custodial and non-custodial parents, residents of public housing, persons with disabilities, persons who are homeless, and individuals transitioning from incarceration into the community; and

WHEREAS, according to the National Association for State Community Services Programs in FY2009 over 90% of funding received by the states goes to grants to local eligible entities; and

WHEREAS, the CSBG program gives our communities the flexibility to target issues that are most important in each different community and does not impose a “one size fits all” solution to combating poverty; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the U.S. Conference of Mayors supports the Community Services Block Grant and urges Congress and the Administration to fund the program at its FY2010 level of \$700 million;

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to resist all attempts that are made to legislatively weaken or reduce the funding for this program as it is a vital tool for our cities to use when combating poverty.

SUPPORT HEALTH PREVENTION

WHEREAS, preventable diseases such as cardiovascular disease, diabetes and many cancers are the leading causes of death in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the preponderance of evidence shows that the most effective steps to change the prevalence of these diseases include changes at the local community level that make it easier for people to choose healthy behaviors that improve diet, nutrition and activity level, and to avoid unhealthy behaviors such as smoking, sedentary lifestyles or poor diet; and

WHEREAS, local public health programs enacted in the last 20 years have been shown to result in major reductions in negative health outcomes such as heart attacks, strokes and lung cancer, and in unhealthy behaviors such as smoking; and

WHEREAS, over three quarters of health care spending in the U.S is for chronic disease, much of which is preventable; prevention efforts represent the greatest opportunity to “bend the cost curve; and

WHEREAS, the rapidly growing burden of chronic disease costs is overtaking the economic resources of states, cities, counties, employers and families; and

WHEREAS, public support for prevention of chronic disease is overwhelming. A public opinion survey conducted by the Trust for America’s Health and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) found that 71 percent of Americans favored an increased investment in disease prevention; and

WHEREAS, federal spending to keep people healthy is a tiny fraction of spending to treat preventable diseases such as diabetes and cardiovascular disease; annual per capita health expenditures exceed \$8,000 per person in the United States while combined Federal and State spending for all public health activities are only about \$50 per person; and

WHEREAS, the creation of the Federal Prevention and Public Health Fund in 2010 marked the first major Federal expenditure to support local efforts to prevent the leading causes of death and the public health infrastructure needed to support their implementation; and

WHEREAS, the Fund will bring common sense into our health care system by helping people to stay healthy and avoid illness in the first place; helping Americans to make healthier choices and take personal responsibility for their own health; and reducing health care costs for businesses, families and government; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges the Congress to continue to provide consistent, stable and meaningful financial and legal support to efforts by federal, state and local public health entities to reduce preventable disease rates; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges the Congress to continue to support the efforts of the Prevention and Public Health Fund; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges the Congress to provide adequate support to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and other federal agencies whose support is essential for local public health.

DEVELOPING REGIONAL FOOD HUBS TO STRENGTHEN LOCAL & REGIONAL FOOD SYSTEMS

WHEREAS, cities across the United States are grappling with related crises of obesity, poverty and hunger; and

WHEREAS, diet-related diseases impose enormous public health and economic costs on cities largely due to the lack of affordable, healthy food options and overabundance of unhealthy foods in food desert neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, experts estimate that if present trends continue, midsize farms will drastically decrease over the next several years; and

WHEREAS, the public health, environmental, social, and economic consequences of our current food system demand a compelling and critical call to action; and

WHEREAS, local and regional food systems can offer many benefits including 1) improved health and well-being of communities, 2) increased access to healthy, high quality affordable food, 3) contribute to a thriving local economy including job creation, and 4) protecting and strengthening biodiversity and natural resources; and

WHEREAS, Regional Food Hubs are an emerging business model that offers aggregation and distribution services for small and midsize producers and are critical infrastructure for expanding local and regional food systems as an economic development, public health, and environmental strategy; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Agriculture supports the development of local and regional food systems to address health disparities related to limited healthy food availability, while creating new markets for regional farmers; and

WHEREAS, the USDA established a Regional Food Hub Tactical Team to examine how coordinated food hubs can play an important role in eradicating food deserts by expanding the availability and affordability of fresh, healthful and locally-produced food; and the USDA recently released the results of a nationwide analysis on regional food hubs; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors supports the USDA in their commitment to improving healthy food access in food desert neighborhoods and strengthening regional food systems through the creation of regional food hubs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Mayors to support the development of Regional Food Hubs that include the following components:

- Increased access to “good food” -- food that is healthy, affordable, fairly and sustainably grown -- for underserved communities and expanded direct-to consumer sales for farmers in food desert neighborhoods;

- Infrastructure development that enables local institutions such as schools, municipal agencies, hospitals, restaurants, corner stores, and other retail outlets to increase their local food procurement;
- Expanded markets for small and midsize local growers;
- Good job creation throughout the food chain;
- Streamlined local purchasing for customers to purchase source-verified local foods, which are grown and distributed with decreased environmental impact; and
- Increased education of residents about available nutrition assistance programs and emerging market outlets; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors and the nation's Mayors support the stated goals of Regional Food Hubs and will work in partnership with public and private leaders in advancing this effort.

IN SUPPORT OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH INITIATIVES

WHEREAS, mental and substance use disorders devastate the lives of millions Americans, their families and communities. In 2009, there were more than 45 million Americans over the age of 18 suffering from serious mental illness and more than 2 million children aged 12-17 suffering from major depressive disorder. Further, an estimated 23.5 million Americans aged 12 and older were in need of treatment for substance use disorders; and

WHEREAS, approximately 1 in 5 children and adolescents may have a diagnosable mental disorder. However, it is estimated that about 75 percent of children with emotional and behavioral disorders do not receive specialty mental health services; and

WHEREAS, in 2009 more than 8.4 million adults had serious thoughts of committing suicide, 2.2 million adults report making plans for suicide, and 1.0 million adults attempted suicide. Data indicate that Suicide is the 3rd leading cause of death for youth ages 15-24. Among young people aged 10-14 years old, suicide rates have doubled in the last two decades;

- Over 34,000 people in the United States die by suicide every year.
- In 2007 there were 34,598 reported suicide deaths.
- Suicide is the fourth leading cause of death for adults between the ages of 18 and 65 years in the United States (28,628 suicides).

WHEREAS, stigma and difficulty paying for care often limits access to proven treatments for millions of Americans; and

WHEREAS, studies report that people with substance abuse disorders and mental health conditions die decades earlier (on average at the age of 52) than the general population, mostly due to preventable medical conditions such as diabetes, cardiovascular and lung disease, and other chronic illnesses; and

WHEREAS, by 2020, behavioral health disorders will surpass all physical diseases as a major cause of disability worldwide; and

WHEREAS, like physical illnesses, substance abuse and mental health disorders cost society billions of dollars with an estimated total cost for substance abuse of approximately \$510 billion dollars and an estimated cost of to the United States economy of \$193,000,000,000 for mental illness;

WHEREAS, research and studies have demonstrated that, within a year of receiving mental health care, behavioral and emotional problems decreased among youth with mental health issues, school attendance increased, violent incidents decreased, and incidence of depression and anxiety decreased;

WHEREAS, the 2009 Institute of Medicine Report documents that mental, emotional, and behavioral disorders are substantially preventable prenatally, during early childhood, during elementary years, adolescence and even in adulthood;

WHEREAS, state mental health programs were cut nationally by 4 percent in 2009, 5 percent in 2010, and are estimated to be cut by more than 8% in 2011;

WHEREAS, there are models in community collaborations, trainings in law enforcement, mental health first aid, emotional CPR, as well as specific positive reinforcement strategies that can be implemented in a community at a reasonable cost;

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors recognizes that healthy communities are created when individuals, families, schools, government and businesses are encouraged to take action to support emotional health and behavioral wellness.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on Congress and the Administration to invest in community-based and evidence-based models for prevention and treatment. These models should focus on technical assistance for training in methods to intervene and prevent tragedies and support outcomes that divert individuals into treatment and provide the necessary community supports in the event of a national tragedy such as that which occurred in Tucson, Arizona on January 8, 2011.

LET'S MOVE AND END CHILDHOOD OBESITY

WHEREAS, our nation's cities support the policies and programs that focus on health and wellness and the creation of healthier community environments; and

WHEREAS, the childhood obesity epidemic is a national health crisis with one in every three children (31.7%) ages 2-19 is overweight or obese; and

WHEREAS, obesity has been shown to lead to heart disease, diabetes, cancer and other chronic diseases; and

WHEREAS, obesity is estimated to cause 112,000 deaths per year in the United States and one-third of all children born in 2000 are expected to develop diabetes in their lifetime; and

WHEREAS, the economic impact of obesity and physical inactivity is estimated at \$3 billion each year. Obese adults incur an estimated \$1,429 more in direct medical costs than their medically and physically fit counterparts; and

WHEREAS, cities believe there are important long-term community benefits to be gained by creating healthy community environments, including a decrease in the rate of childhood obesity and related risk factors for chronic disease; and

WHEREAS, President Barak Obama has established a White House Taskforce on Childhood Obesity to activate a call to action to address this national crisis; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors applauds the President and First Lady in their commitment to end childhood obesity now; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors stands with the First Lady in her effort to provide our nation's children with healthy foods and healthy environments that promote physical activity through the Let's Move Campaign; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Mayors to accept this call to action and adopt and implement the White House Taskforce recommendations that include:

- Reducing the risk of childhood obesity in the early years of a child's life
- Empowering parents and caregivers
- Ensuring healthy food options in our nation's schools
- Increasing access to healthy affordable foods
- Increasing physical activity; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Mayors to raise awareness of the racial and ethnic, socioeconomic and regional disparities which impact the high rates obesity across populations and work to address those disparities in their cities.

REGARDING HUMAN TRAFFICKING

WHEREAS, human trafficking is the world's largest criminal enterprise, and poses a significant threat in the United States; and

WHEREAS, human traffickers' criminal enterprise victimizes individuals, many of them children, who are forced into prostitution, and foreigners brought into the United States, often under false pretenses, who are coerced into forced labor or commercial sexual exploitation; and

WHEREAS, sex trafficking is one of the most lucrative forms of human trafficking, increasingly becoming part of criminal gang activity, with criminal gangs involved in recruiting young women and girls into sex trafficking; and sex trafficking is outpacing drug trafficking because criminal gangs find it more lucrative and less likely they will get caught; and

WHEREAS, experts estimate that each year at least 100,000 children in the United States are exploited through prostitution; and

WHEREAS, the average age of first exploitation through prostitution is 13, and 75 percent of minors exploited through prostitution have a pimp; and

WHEREAS, children who have run away from home are at a high risk of becoming exploited through sex trafficking; children who run away multiple times have an increased risk of not returning home and of engaging in prostitution; and

WHEREAS, sex trafficking of minors is a complex and varied criminal problem that requires a multi-disciplinary, cooperative solution requiring government at all levels to address victims, pimps, and johns, and to provide training specific to sex trafficking for law enforcement officers and prosecutors, and for child welfare, public health, and other social service providers; and

WHEREAS, human trafficking is a criminal enterprise that imposes significant costs on the economy of the United States, and government and non-profit resources used to address trafficking include those of law enforcement, the judicial and penal systems, and social service providers; and

WHEREAS, without a range of appropriate treatments to help trafficking victims overcome the trauma they have experienced, victims will continue to be exploited by criminals and unable to support themselves, and will continue to require government resources, rather than being productive contributors to the economy; and

WHEREAS, human trafficking victims are often either not identified as trafficking victims or are mischaracterized as criminal offenders and both private and public sector personnel play an important role in helping authorities to identify trafficking victims and potential victims, such as runaways; and

WHEREAS, examples of such personnel include hotel staff, flight attendants, health care providers, educators, and parks and recreation personnel, and efforts to train these individuals can bolster law enforcement efforts to reduce human trafficking; and

WHEREAS, sex trafficking of minors is not a problem that occurs only in urban settings, and also exists in rural areas and on Indian reservations, and efforts to address sex trafficking of minors should include partnerships with organizations that seek to address the needs of such underserved communities,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors supports federal laws that require the updating of the National Crime Information Center to ensure that accurate information is collected on endangered juveniles, as well as legislation that assists victims of human trafficking by providing targeted funding for shelters for victims, assistance counseling and legal services, specialized training for law enforcement and social services, as well as funding for more law enforcement officers, and outreach and prevention efforts to deter offenders; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Congress should pass, and the administration should support the Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking Deterrence and Victims Support Act of 2011.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING COMMITTEE

FULL FUNDING OF THE CDBG PROGRAM FORMULA

WHEREAS, the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) has been a mainstay of the federal-city partnership since 1974; and

WHEREAS, CDBG has been supported for 37 years in a bipartisan manner by Mayors, House and Senate members and Presidential administrations; and

WHEREAS, CDBG is a model of how federal programs for local assistance should be designed and held accountable, providing local officials broad discretion on how best to use those funds within priority categories approved in national legislation; and

WHEREAS, based on data that grantees have reported to the Department of Housing and Urban Development over the past six years, the CDBG Program has:

- Assisted 865,874 low- and moderate-income households through single-family and multifamily residential rehabilitation, homeownership assistance, energy efficient improvements and lead-based paint abatement;
- Created or retained 259,346 jobs for low- and moderate-income persons through a variety of economic development activities;
- Benefitted 22,998,047 low- and moderate-income households through such public improvements as development of senior centers, centers for the disabled and handicapped, health and child care centers and parks and recreation facilities;
- Benefitted 73,863,286 low- and moderate-income households through such public services as employment and training, youth services, crime awareness/prevention, fair housing activities, mental health services, and services for abused and neglected children; and

WHEREAS, CDBG received one of the largest cuts in the FY11 budget, yet it is a program that has proven itself time and again, as measured by its accomplishments; and

WHEREAS, because of the massive cut approved to the program in FY11, local and state agencies and their non-profit partners will have to lay-off staff; services will be reduced or eliminated; infrastructure projects will stop in their tracks; affordable housing will be curtailed, but most importantly, the low- and moderate-income families served by the program will see huge reductions in program benefits at the community level; and

WHEREAS, some families rely on CDBG for down payment assistance, funds to rehabilitate their homes, start-up funds for small businesses, to name a few; and

WHEREAS, other families rely on the program for food assistance through local food banks, utility assistance, day care assistance, and even health care assistance through locally-funded health clinics; and

WHEREAS, a recent study by HIS Global Insights of 10 large city and urban county participants found that the FY 2101 funding of CDBG at \$3.95 billion generated 120,000 jobs and contributed \$10.7 billion in Gross Domestic Product; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of mayors calls on the Administration and Congress to support at least \$3.90 billion in formula funding for CDBG in FY12.

Projected cost: 3.90 billion

AFFIRMING POLICY IN SUPPORT OF AN INCREASE TO THE CAP ON CDBG PUBLIC SERVICES EXPENDITURES

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, State and their non-profit partners meet the needs of low and moderate-income communities; and

WHEREAS, CDBG helps fund a wide range of activities, including home ownership assistance, public services, and economic development projects; and

WHEREAS, the Administration and Congress agreed to cut the CDBG formula program by 16.2 percent; a decrease in CDBG formula funding from \$3.99 billion in FY 2010 to \$3.343 billion in FY 2011 (a \$647 million cut); and

WHEREAS, recent 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, eligible CDBG expenditures under the public service provision of section 105(a)(8) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended (the Act), include the provision of food, temporary shelter and related services; and

WHEREAS, the same statutory provision limits such expenditures to 15 percent of a grantee's most recent CDBG allocation plus program income; and

WHEREAS, CDBG expenditures under the public service provision are used for life-sustaining services such as services for senior citizens (e.g., meals), services for abused or neglected children, and substance abuse services (e.g., counseling and treatment); and

WHEREAS, the problems which CDBG public services expenditures address have not lessened, but have only grown more acute over time; and

WHEREAS, local governments, during the current economic downturn, struggle to finance basic social services for its residents; and

WHEREAS, increasing the cap on CDBG Public Services expenditures from 15% to 25% would provide local governments the financial flexibility needed to continue providing these life-sustaining services to the most vulnerable of its citizens; children, elderly and poor;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to increase the CDBG Public Services Cap by amending Section 105(a)(8) of the Housing and

Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5305(a)(8) by striking “15 per centum” each place it appears and inserting “25 percent”.

SUPPORTING THE HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIPS (HOME) PROGRAM

WHEREAS, decent, safe, affordable housing is at the core of family stability and strong neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, the HOME program provides direct formula grants to jurisdictions to fund a wide-range of affordable housing activities, including home buyer assistance, construction and rehabilitation of rental housing, and the rehabilitation of existing homeowner properties; and

WHEREAS, since 1992, the HOME program has expanded the supply of decent, safe, affordable housing, through approximately 650 participating jurisdictions completing over one million affordable housing units, including 403,000 for new homebuyers and providing 224,000 tenants with direct rental assistance; and

WHEREAS, a recent study the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development found the number of persons experiencing worst case housing needs' skyrocketed by 20 percent from 2007 to 2009 and by 42 percent since 2001 which clearly demonstrates the need for the HOME program; and

WHEREAS, the HOME program was cut in FY2011 to \$1, 606 billion from its enacted level of \$1,825 billion in FY2010;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on the Administration and Congress to fund the HOME program at least at the level of \$1,825 billion in FY2012.

IN SUPPORT OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD STABILIZATION PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Neighborhood Stabilization Program(NSP) is a vital part of how our cities have aided our communities in addressing the foreclosure crisis by providing direct flexible funding to our cities to help our hardest hit communities; and

WHEREAS, the Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008 established the \$4 billion Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) to provide federal formula grants directly to states and certain local governments to help stabilize communities; and

WHEREAS, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act provided \$2 billion in additional NSP funding, but altered the grant allocation methodology to force local governments to compete for funding with national and consortium non-profit groups; and

WHEREAS, the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2010 provided another \$1 billion in formula grants to states and local governments for the Neighborhood Stabilization Program; and

WHEREAS, our neighborhoods continue to struggle with high foreclosure rates as 220,000 foreclosure filings occurred during the month of April and 3.7 million borrowers were at least 90 days late on their mortgage payment according to RealtyTrak; and

WHEREAS, over a quarter of all borrowers owe more on their home than their home is actually worth; and

WHEREAS, the Neighborhood Stabilization Program will actually help communities to stabilize falling prices in the hardest hit areas; and

WHEREAS, the cities use funding from NSP to purchase foreclosed properties and rehabilitate those properties for the benefit of low and middle income individuals; and

WHEREAS, the US House of Representatives passed HR 861, the Neighborhood Stabilization Termination Act, that would end the NSP program and rescind all unobligated balances from the program; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the U.S. Conference of Mayors recognizes the important need of the Neighborhood Stabilization Program to communities across the Nation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to recognize the importance of the NSP and calls for an additional round of formula funding to prevent home prices from continuing to fall; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to ensure that the Neighborhood Stabilization Program formula grants include criteria to assist our most blighted cities and addresses the issue of poverty; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that U.S. Conference of Mayors vehemently disagrees with the House of Representatives passage of HR 861, the Neighborhood Stabilization Termination Act and further calls on the Senate to oppose this or any other similar legislation; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors opposes all legislative activity to rescind any funding or legislatively weaken this vital program.

A CALL TO ACTION ON HOMELESSNESS

1. **WHEREAS**, the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) is an independent federal agency composed of 19 Cabinet secretaries and agency heads whose mission is to coordinate the federal response to homelessness and to create a national partnership to reduce and end homelessness in the nation; and
2. **WHEREAS**, the USICH has developed the first federal strategic plan to prevent and end homelessness, Opening Doors; and
3. **WHEREAS**, USICH and its 19 member agencies have turned from the development of Opening Doors to action and is gathering baseline data around the key measures, working with member agencies to prioritize which strategies demand action first and translating the strategic plan into implementation plans; and
4. **WHEREAS**, USICH has issued a Call to Action (CTA) Campaign, which is an effort to energize communities to take on the challenge of preventing and ending homelessness by implementing Opening Doors including: (1) ending chronic homelessness by 2015; (2) preventing and ending veteran's homelessness by 2015; (2) preventing and ending homelessness for families, youth, and children by 2020; and (4) reducing all other types of homelessness.
5. **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the U.S. Conference of Mayors commends the USICH for development of Opening Doors;
6. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that U.S. Conference of Mayors urges its members to engage with USICH to respond to the Call to Action and work with USICH towards implementation of Opening Doors.

Projected cost: Unknown

SECTION 8 HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER PROGRAM (“HCV”)

WHEREAS, nationally the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher program (“HCV”) serves more than 2.1 million households, and

WHEREAS, 75% of the households served are extremely low-income families with incomes below 30% of area median income, and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that nearly 40% of the households served by the HCV program are headed by an individual with a disability, and

WHEREAS, more than half of all HCV assisted households include children, and

WHEREAS, elderly individuals head 19% of HCV families, and

WHEREAS, Tenant-Based Rental Assistance Renewals were funded at \$16.3 billion in FY2010, and

WHEREAS, the HUD’s Budget for FY2011 sought funding for Section 8 Tenant-Based Voucher Renewals at \$17.114 billion, and

WHEREAS, the Department of Defense and Full Year Continuing Resolution (PL 112-10) provides funding for the HCV program during FY2011, and

WHEREAS, the Administration’s proposed budget for FY2012 seeks \$17.144 billion in renewal funding, and

WHEREAS, the Conference of Mayors strongly believes that \$17.7 billion is necessary to fully fund the renewal of all tenant-based vouchers, and

WHEREAS, the Section 8 Administrative Fee (“Administrative Fee”) was funded in FY2010 at \$1.525 billion, and

WHEREAS, The President’s budget for FY2011 sought \$1.741 billion to fully fund the Administrative Fee, and

WHEREAS, the Department of Defense and Full Year Continuing Resolution (PL 112-10) provides only \$1.45 billion in funding for the Administrative Fee in FY2011, and

WHEREAS, the President’s FY2012 budget calls for an Administrative Fee of \$1.598 billion, and

WHEREAS, the Conference of Mayors is seriously concerned that, at a minimum, at least \$1.770 billion is required to fully fund the Section 8 Administrative Fee in FY2012, and

WHEREAS, with underfunded Administrative Fees in FY2011 and FY2012, housing agencies will lack sufficient funds to perform mandated administrative obligations including the inspection of apartments first coming on line and annual income certifications by assisted families, and

WHEREAS, if agencies administering the HCV program lack the funding necessary for their performance of mandated statutory tasks, the number of vouchers funded in FY2011 and FY2012 are expected to decline, and

WHEREAS, the number of voucher renewals in FY2013 and beyond will similarly decline as, under the current formula, voucher renewals are based on the number of families assisted during the prior year, and

WHEREAS, The President's budget for FY2012 includes several provisions that would lower the cost of administering the HCV program including, but not limited to, removing the cap limiting the number of families that can be served, permitting fixed-income households to recertify their income once every three years, allowing agencies to approve exception rents for disabled voucher families and authorizing a rent demonstration. With insufficient funding levels for the Administrative Fee proposed in FY2012, the Conference of Mayors opposes the proposed increase in the standard elderly / disabled deduction from \$400 to \$675 inasmuch as no provision is made to reimburse administering agencies for the revenue loss that will occur and because the proposed increase in the threshold for the medical / equipment deduction from 3% to 10% will negatively affect elderly / disabled households. Nevertheless, the Conference of Mayors fully supports the proposal to increase by three the number of Moving to Work agencies, subject to criteria the HUD Secretary will establish.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges the a United States Congress to fully fund the Housing Choice Voucher program in FY2012 at \$17.7 billion, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges the a United States Congress to fully fund the Section 8 Administrative Fee in FY2012 at \$1.770 billion thereby providing sufficient funds to allow agencies administering the HCV program to perform all statutorily mandated tasks including the inspection of newly occupied apartments and the annual review of all income re-certifications, thereby maintaining in FY2013 at least the current number of assisted under the HCV program, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges the United States Congress to amend the law and authorize the program reforms set out in this Resolution that will lower the cost of administering the HCV program in FY2012.

IN SUPPORT OF PUBLIC HOUSING FUNDS

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, Public Housing properties require in excess of \$22 billion in repairs exacerbating the national public housing crisis cities face today; and

WHEREAS, in 2008, the Conference supported a Public Housing Operating Subsidy of \$5.3 billion and a Public Housing Capitol Fund of \$3.5 billion; and

WHEREAS, the Federal spending of these two crucial programs has continued to decrease from the levels called for by the Conference in 2008; and

WHEREAS, though funding has decreased, the need has not – for 30 percent of the over 1.2 million public housing units in existence are in extremely high poverty neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, cities have not simply relied on Federal funding to support public housing initiatives, but also innovative and sustainable strategies such as greening public housing stock to reduce energy costs (19.5 percent of all low-income family's annual income is spent on energy), maintenance issues, and improve the health of the built environment; and

WHEREAS, in 2010, the Conference adopted policy supporting the GREEN Act and similar legislation which transform and modernize the U.S. housing market through the use of Energy Efficient Mortgages and Location Efficient Mortgages while ensuring that the benefits of green buildings are accessible to Americans of all income levels through the use of standards and incentives for affordable housing projects, including green building standards for single family or multifamily structures; and

WHEREAS, in the face of these developments, the public housing fund accounts are yet slatted for more reductions as the Operating Subsidy is proposed to be reduced by over \$700 million below the FY2010 level; and

WHEREAS, without stable public housing accounts, the foreclosure emergency continuing to impact our communities will only worsen.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on Congress and the Administration to keep the critical Public Housing accounts whole by at least maintaining their FY2010 levels.

RESOLUTION TO PROTECT HOMEOWNERSHIP ACCESS FOR MIDDLE CLASS, LOW AND MODERATE INCOME, AND MINORITY FAMILIES

WHEREAS; homeownership has historically been the primary wealth creation vehicle for the middle class; and

WHEREAS, a long term investment in their home has provided millions of Americans with access to capital to start a small business or help pay for a college education and at the same time has served to stabilize neighborhoods throughout this country; and

WHEREAS; since the advent of lower down payment mortgages as an alternative to the traditional 20% down payment mortgage, low and moderate-income families including African American, Hispanic and women head of household families have been given greater access to the American Dream; and

WHEREAS, the Dodd-Frank Act requires banks that pool mortgages and sell them as securities to retain at least 5% stake in those loans unless the loans are exempted under the law's Qualified Residential Mortgage (QRM) definition; and

WHEREAS, Federal Agencies responsible for implementing the Dodd-Frank Act are developing a proposed QRM rule; and

WHEREAS, the proposed risk retention rule defines the QRM to include only loans where the borrower has made a 20% or higher down payment; and

WHEREAS, a 20% minimum down payment proposes would raise the cost of mortgages for many first-time homebuyers and consequently could have a serious, detrimental effect on the housing market recovery; and

WHEREAS, the proposed QRM rule does not allow for the use of private mortgage insurance (MI) to reduce the 20% minimum down payment requirement and establishes other inflexible factors regarding establishing a borrower's credit-worthiness; and

WHEREAS, a family earning \$50,000 a year would have to save more than eleven years to save for a 20% down payment on a \$153,000 home; and

WHEREAS, nearly 60% of all homebuyers did not make a down payment of 20% or more last year and in more expensive markets that number was over 80%; and

WHEREAS, last year half of all home purchases were first-time homebuyers with 86% of them making down payments below 20%; and

WHEREAS, first time homebuyers, including many Hispanic and African American citizens, will be effectively frozen out of the private mortgage market simply because of their inability to make a large down payment; and

WHEREAS, the Congressional Black Caucus has stated that a high minimum down payment requirement could relegate many Americans to long-term rental status and draw out the housing crisis; and

WHEREAS, private mortgage insurance is a proven method of minimizing defaults and minimizing mortgage investor losses, providing a firewall against federal exposure: and

WHEREAS; If the 20% minimum down payment requirement were to take effect, lenders would direct homebuyers who cannot accumulate a 20% down payment to mortgages fully insured by Federal agencies and thereby increasing the Federal Housing Administration's (FHA) insured portfolio and risk bearing, exposing the taxpayer to 100 percent of this new risk; and

WHEREAS; Taxpayer exposure through FHA is already at record levels and expected to grow to an estimated in the President's budget at \$1.253 trillion by the end of fiscal year 2012; and

WHEREAS; Federal regulators intend risk retention to be costly and as a result all the incentives for lending institutions will be to originate loans that meet the QRM standards or to charge borrowers high fees and interest rates for non-QRM mortgages or stay out of the market entirely; and

WHEREAS; the primary alternative to a QRM is to originate FHA-insured loans because they are completely exempt from the risk retention requirements and impose no extra cost for the lender, because these loans carry 100% government insurance they also carry a huge risk the taxpayer; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors calls on the Obama Administration to define Qualified Residential Mortgage in a way that does not close off homeownership for a majority of Americans.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the USCM strongly encourages the Administration to adopt a QRM rule that includes lower down payment mortgages that are strictly underwritten and include private mortgage insurance as part of the rule because this will assist in the housing market recovery.

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GOVERNMENT SPONSORED ENTITIES (GSEs)

WHEREAS, the federal government has an important role to play in the future of multifamily housing lending; and

WHEREAS, Congress is debating options for winding down the GSEs and guarantees for secondary markets; and

WHEREAS, there is an important distinction between the single-family and multifamily markets; and

WHEREAS, the GSEs' multifamily portfolio has performed well, especially compared to single family investments; and

WHEREAS, since 1996, the GSEs have provided over \$535 billion in multifamily mortgage debt. As other sources have withdrawn from the market, the GSEs currently provide approximately ninety percent (90%) of the capital to the multifamily housing industry; and

WHEREAS, the GSEs are the only active participant in securitizing multi-family loans for long-term (10+ years) financing; and

WHEREAS, prior to the conservatorship, the GSEs were the largest institutional purchaser of Low-Income Housing Tax Credits and Tax-Exempt Bonds; and

WHEREAS, approximately ninety percent (90%) of the multi-family lending executed by the GSEs directly benefits residents earning no more than 100% of area median income (AMI); and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the GSEs' role as providers of liquidity, permanent financing partner and institutional purchaser of Low Income Housing Tax Credits and Tax Exempt Bonds should not be overlooked; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that any reform of housing finance system should replicate these roles in a manner favorable to affordable housing development.

SUPPORT FOR THE GREEN AND HEALTHY HOMES INITIATIVE AND EFFORTS TO EXPAND THE NATION'S STOCK OF AFFORDABLE, GREEN, HEALTHY, AND SUSTAINABLE HOUSING

WHEREAS, HUD's American Housing Survey found that 6 million households live with moderate to severe physical housing problems, which place them at risk for various illnesses and injuries including lead poisoning, asthma triggers, house fires, and slip and falls; and

WHEREAS, the US Conference of Mayors' Lead Safe for Kids program has provided over \$4 million over the last 10 years and has been put to work in more than 40 cities, helping to contribute to the significant reduction of children with elevated blood lead levels from 4.4% of children under 6 years old in 1991 to less than 0.59% today; and

WHEREAS, the US Conference of Mayors aided in the creation of HUD's Lead Hazard Reduction Demonstration Program, which to date has provided \$353.8 million to reduce lead hazards in cities around the nation.

WHEREAS, other home-based health hazards negatively impact cities and families including 40% of asthma episodes triggered by home conditions costing \$5 billion annually in healthcare costs, and 13 million preventable home related injuries costing \$222 billion annually, as well as the 250,000 children still impacted by elevated blood lead levels costing \$43.4 billion in lost earning potential; and

WHEREAS, the success gained on addressing lead can be expanded to address the host of home-based health hazards that historically have only been addressed by individual programs rather than comprehensively; and

WHEREAS, low income households spend 14% of income on energy compared with only 3.5% for other households resulting in increased foreclosure and eviction risks; and

WHEREAS, the Green and Healthy Homes Initiative (GHHI) has emerged as a new model to improve communities and the lives of those living within them by aligning programs, braiding funding streams, and coordinating interventions to address home based health and safety hazards and energy deficiencies, resulting in: Improved energy efficiency with fewer environmental impacts; better health outcomes for our children, seniors and families; More efficient use of public investment through improved interagency coordination; Higher quality green jobs; Reduced barriers to school attendance and work among families with young children; Reduced energy costs for low and moderate income families; More effective and sustainable home investments; and

WHEREAS, GHHI maximizes public and philanthropic investments for 5 major benefits: Government innovation in service delivery; Development of sustainable community-based "green collar" jobs and social enterprise; Creation of stable and sustainable green and healthy homes in low and moderate income neighborhoods; Measurable improvements in health outcomes for children, seniors, and families; Wealth retention and improved property values; and

WHEREAS, initial results have shown significant reductions in the incidents of severe asthma; reduced emergency room visits, hospitalizations and doctor visits, and school absences; blood lead levels have been reduced to below CDC action levels; reduced energy consumption and lower energy bills; intervention cost savings from integrating services and reducing duplicative work; and higher wages earned by persons trained in green, healthy and lead safe assessments and interventions; and

WHEREAS, GHHI is working to inform the Federal Healthy Homes Work Group (comprised of HUD, DOE, HHS, DOL, EPA, DOA, and the National Institute of Standards and Technology, among others) and state and local agencies in the development of a national green and healthy housing standard; and

WHEREAS, the National Academy of Public Administration issued the report, “Achieving Green and Healthy Homes and Communities in America” and recommended GHHI be taken to scale nationally; and

WHEREAS, HUD’s paper, “From Recovery to Reinvestment, the Impact of the Recovery Act on America’s Cities” sets a goal of 100,000 Green and Healthy Homes across the nation over the next 3 to 5 years; and

WHEREAS, GHHI provides the opportunity to promote and advance affordable and safe housing post ARRA through recapturing the savings from efficiencies and leveraging diverse sources of investment.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on our members to support the Green and Healthy Homes Initiative and the federal government’s plan for expansion to produce 100,000 Green and Healthy Homes in the next 3 to 5 years.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to provide funding for federal programs and local green and healthy homes initiatives that support braiding funding streams and coordinating interventions to address home health and safety hazards and energy deficiencies.

BET IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on our members to model effective GHHI systems reforms that can be done without significant cost including:

- Aligning agencies, departments, and programs, braiding diverse funding streams, and coordinating housing intervention efforts;
- Establishing an effective local collaborative partnership including nongovernmental organizations, philanthropic entities, and private sector companies to advance the green and healthy effort;
- Utilizing comprehensive assessment tools to assess multiple home-based health hazards and energy efficiency issues;
- Supporting integrated training of workers in green and healthy home related fields;

- Establishing streamlined and efficient systems for residents to receive multiple housing services through a single portal;
- Moving toward shared data and common metrics among city departments and agencies.

Projected Cost: Unknown

SUPPORT PRESIDENT OBAMA’S PROPOSAL TO PROMOTE JOBS AND INVESTMENT THROUGH THE CREATION OF GROWTH ZONES

WHEREAS, President Obama proposes to rejuvenate distressed communities through a new initiative to identify and support Growth Zones across the country; and

WHEREAS, economic growth occurs in a metropolitan or regional context and, when possible, federal initiatives should acknowledge regional assets and patterns as they provide incentives and tools to enhance such growth;

WHEREAS, the President proposes to create a national competition for Growth Zones, a Race to the Top-style initiative for regions and communities that face high unemployment rates and that identify new opportunities for economic growth; and

WHEREAS, Growth Zones are designed to build upon the legacy of Empowerment Zones, Enterprise Communities, and Renewal Communities, as well as initiatives begun or strengthened during the Obama Administration, and improve these programs’ ability to provide support to distressed communities; and

WHEREAS, Growth Zones will stimulate job creation and investments through employment credits and investment incentives to businesses; and

WHEREAS, Growth Zones will support communities in translating economic strategies into economic realities providing planning and seed capital grants; and

WHEREAS, Growth Zones will receive federal program flexibility to allow for more coordinated and effective use of federal funding;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the United States Conference of Mayors supports the President’s proposal to create a Growth Zones program.

SUPPORTING PUBLIC-PRIVATE STARTUP INITIATIVES

WHEREAS, community-supported entrepreneurship is an important contributor to job creation and the American economy;

WHEREAS, as Americans we celebrate and honor the spirit of entrepreneurship as a core value and source of our competitive advantage;

WHEREAS, entrepreneurship inspires and empowers an ever-greater diversity of communities and individuals to build great American companies;

WHEREAS, according to a 2010 study by the Kaufmann Foundation, startup companies with a longevity of five years retain close to 80% of their workforce, provide long-lasting economic benefits, and play a leading role in our economic recovery;

WHEREAS, the mission to promote entrepreneurship should be a core component of the nation's strategy for achieving sustainable growth and quality jobs;

WHEREAS, the core goals of Startup America are to increase the number and scale of new high-growth firms that are creating economic growth, innovation, and quality jobs;

WHEREAS, in partnership with the U.S. government, private-sector companies, entrepreneurs, and investors, the Startup America initiative launched in January of 2011 in an effort to deliver resources to help entrepreneurs start ventures and grow their businesses;

WHEREAS, specifically the program contains a full range of public and private initiatives that is aimed at:

- Expanding access to capital for high-growth startups throughout the country;
- Expanding entrepreneurship education and mentorship programs that empower more Americans not just to get a job, but to create jobs;
- Strengthening commercialization of the about \$148 billion in annual federally-funded research and development, which can generate innovative startups and entirely new industries;
- Identifying and remove unnecessary barriers to high-growth startups; and
- Expanding collaborations between large companies and startups.

WHEREAS, the White House has fully engaged the Small Business Administration, the Department of Energy, the Treasury Department, and other federal agencies to support these efforts.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the US Conference of Mayors supports efforts by the federal government to create public-private partnerships in order to identify and break down barriers – including regulatory barriers - for entrepreneurs and innovators;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the US Conference of Mayors supports the Small Business Administration's use of existing authority to match private sector investment funding for startups and small firms in underserved communities, as well as seed and early-stage investing in firms with high growth potential, through its Small Business Investment Company (SBIC) program.

CALLING ON CONGRESS AND THE ADMINISTRATION TO SUPPORT PROPERTY ASSESSED CLEAN ENERGY (PACE) PROGRAMS

WHEREAS, utility bills represent a major part of operating costs for home and business owners; and

WHEREAS, the building sector accounts for 39 percent of the nation's energy use, 72 percent of its electricity use, one third of all global greenhouse gas emissions and represents the single largest, most accessible opportunity for deep emission cuts in the United States; and

WHEREAS, investing in cost-effective energy efficiency and renewable energy improvements to homes and businesses can save energy, cut utility bills up to \$140 billion per year, create thousands of local jobs, reduce reliance on fossil fuels, and dramatically reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) financing programs are an innovative local government solution to help property owners finance energy efficiency and renewable energy improvements – such as energy efficient boilers, upgraded insulation, new windows, solar installations, etc. – to their homes and businesses; and

WHEREAS, the PACE program removes many of the barriers of energy efficiency and renewable energy retrofits that otherwise exist for residential homeowners and businesses, particularly the high upfront cost of making such an investment and the long-term ability to reap the benefits of cost savings; and

WHEREAS, 24 states plus the District of Columbia have passed laws enabling local governments to develop PACE programs; and

WHEREAS, locally-administered PACE programs are an exercise of the traditional authority of local governments to utilize the tax code for public benefit; and

WHEREAS, PACE programs help local governments meet a core obligation to their citizens to maintain housing stock and improve housing opportunities for all citizens; and

WHEREAS, the PACE program is an achievement of the intergovernmental partnership to realize national policy goals, namely, reducing energy consumption, that will positively impact the fiscal conditions of every level of government; and

WHEREAS, despite PACE's great promise, the Federal Housing Finance Agency and the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency on July 6, 2010 issued statements that immediately forced existing PACE programs to halt operations and froze the development of dozens of PACE programs nationwide.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors (USCM) urges Congress to adopt legislation that clearly reaffirms the right of state and local governments to exercise liens or assess special taxes or other property obligations to protect and improve

housing stock for the public good, including energy efficiency improvements, by directing federal regulators to enforce underwriting standards that are consistent with guidelines issued by the U.S. Department of Energy for PACE financing programs or by implementing any other appropriate measure.

CRIMINAL AND SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

IMPROVING PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS

WHEREAS, last year The United States Conference of Mayors passed a comprehensive resolution calling for reallocation of the so-called D Block of the 700 MHz spectrum to public safety; and

WHEREAS, all of the national state and local government organizations and all of the national public safety organizations agree that the D Block should be reallocated to public safety and are working together in support of legislation to achieve this; and

WHEREAS, legislation has been introduced in the House and Senate to reallocate the D Block to public safety and use the proceeds of the auction of other portions of the spectrum to pay for the build out and maintenance of a nationwide interoperable public safety broadband network; and

WHEREAS, in his Wireless Innovation and Infrastructure Initiative and FY 2012 budget proposals announced earlier this year the President called for reallocating the D Block to public safety and the development and deployment of a nationwide wireless public safety broadband network; and

WHEREAS, the Chair and Vice Chair of the 9/11 Commission in testimony before the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee earlier this year called for the immediate allocation of the D Block spectrum to public safety, said further delay is intolerable, and urged Congress to act; and

WHEREAS, the nation will observe the 10th anniversary of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks in just a few months,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors calls for quick passage of legislation that would reallocate the D Block to public safety and the use of proceeds from other FCC spectrum auctions, as directed by Congress, to offset the cost of network deployment, operation and maintenance, in order to ensure that all states and localities can afford costs associated with transition to a nationwide network; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors endorses the establishment of a non-profit corporation to hold the public safety broadband spectrum license, to build and oversee the wireless network, and to ensure seamless nationwide interoperability, and that state and local government and public safety representatives be well represented on the governing board of that corporation in order to assure public safety control of the local/regional component of the nationwide network; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to pass and the President to sign this legislation before the 10th anniversary of the September 11 attacks.

LEVERAGING LOCAL RESOURCES THROUGH THE GRANT PROCESS

WHEREAS, federal grants dollars have assisted local jurisdictions to accomplish national and local priorities, and during this economic downturn local agencies are struggling to maintain the core services residents expect from their local jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, the federal grant program is critical to maintaining and sustaining public safety services to municipalities; and

WHEREAS, many federal grants require localities to provide matching resources in order to qualify for the grant. For example, the Assistance to Firefighters (FIRE) Grant requires a 20 percent hard cash requirement; and

WHEREAS, the matching requirement discourages many municipalities from applying for and/or using the grants that are available; and

WHEREAS, the Urban Areas Security Initiative grant program was first authorized by Congress in 2003, and is now funded on an annual basis; and

WHEREAS, the UASI program focuses on enhancing regional preparedness in major metropolitan areas, and at least 25 percent of UASI appropriated funds are dedicated towards law enforcement terrorism prevention-oriented planning, organization, training, exercise, and equipment activities, including those activities which support the development and operation of fusion centers; and

WHEREAS, public safety and homeland security are top priorities for municipalities, and the need to prepare and train for emergencies, whether a man-made or a natural disaster, is a necessity for every jurisdiction,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors calls upon the Congress to eliminate the matching requirement for public safety and homeland security federal grants; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States Conference of Mayors calls upon Congress and the Department of Homeland Security to maintain full funding for UASI in the FY2012 budget.

COMPREHENSIVE GANG VIOLENCE PREVENTION LEGISLATION

WHEREAS, the U.S Conference of Mayors has adopted resolutions that recognize the broad range of harmful effects of gang violence and has endorsed a comprehensive approach to gang violence reduction legislation; and

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

WHEREAS, the National Gang Threat Assessment for 2009 found that:

- Approximately one million gang members belonging to more than 20,000 gangs were criminally active within all 50 states and the District of Columbia as of September 2008;
- Criminal gangs in some areas commit as much as 80 percent of the crime including human trafficking, armed robbery, auto theft, drug trafficking, extortion, fraud, home invasions, identity theft, murder and weapons trafficking;
- Gang members are the primary retail-level distributors of most illicit drugs with many U.S.-based gang members illegally crossing the U.S.-Mexican border to smuggle illicit drugs into the U.S.;
- Many gangs actively use the Internet to recruit new members and to communicate with members in other parts of the U.S. or in foreign countries; and

WHEREAS, gang violence and gang membership is a community problem that must be addressed throughout community-based comprehensive strategies; and

WHEREAS, gang violence, activities, and their efforts often cross multiple local and state jurisdictions and cannot be addressed at a local level alone; and

WHEREAS, research supports the need for a comprehensive strategy which includes primary and secondary prevention, intervention, re-entry, and targeted suppression strategies and is “family-centered” in scope; and

WHEREAS, the Congress has repeatedly attempted to pass gang violence prevention legislation only to find that such legislation is judged not balanced in its approach, either too enforcement heavy, or too lenient in the treatment of criminal gang members,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors calls upon the Obama Administration’s Attorney General to work with Congress to develop and pass comprehensive gang violence reduction legislation that:

- Calls for a balanced comprehensive approach to primary and secondary prevention, intervention, re-entry, and targeted suppression services that is “family-centered” and relies on evidenced-based best practices with rigorous process and outcome evaluation; and

- Clearly defines the program components of such comprehensive strategy, including the research and best practices from cities throughout the United States

REDUCING AND RESPONDING TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

WHEREAS, one in every four women will experience domestic violence in her lifetime; an estimated 1.3 million women are victims of physical assault by an intimate partner each year; 85 percent of domestic violence victims are women; most cases of domestic violence are never reported to the police; almost one-third of female homicide victims that are reported in police records are killed by an intimate partner; and approximately one-half of the orders obtained by women against intimate partners who physically assaulted them were violated; and

WHEREAS, nearly 1.5 million high school students nationwide experienced physical abuse from a dating partner in a single year; one in 11 adolescents report they have been the victim of physical dating violence; one-quarter of high school girls have been victims of physical or sexual abuse or date rape; girls and young women between the ages of 16 and 24 experience the highest rate of intimate partner violence, at a rate almost triple the national average; nearly 80 percent of teenage girls who are abused remain in the abusive relationship; 40 percent of teenage girls know of someone who has been beaten by her boyfriend; and 30 percent of all teenage girls who are killed are killed by a boyfriend or former boyfriend; and

WHEREAS, providing education resources to young people about the dangers of violent relationships and providing them with the tools to help themselves and their peers is necessary as relationship crime among teens increases; and

WHEREAS, training law enforcement on topics related to domestic violence or teen dating violence will provide all officers with the skills necessary to appropriately respond to the scene of a domestic violence crime; and

WHEREAS, ongoing training for law enforcement officers throughout their careers on handling domestic violence and teen dating violence cases and responding to the scene of a domestic violence crime is effective in reducing more serious crimes from occurring in the future; and

WHEREAS, increasing training and education of law enforcement officers on topics around domestic violence and teen dating violence can influence statutory changes to expand the authority of law enforcement officers in domestic violence cases and impact prosecution rates of domestic violence perpetrators; and

WHEREAS, jurisdictions that have introduced pro-active protocols and training have experienced a dramatic increase in the number of cases reported to law enforcement, and a dramatic decrease in the number of domestic murders; and

WHEREAS, training for all officers is the most essential element to successful implementation of policy; and

WHEREAS, training schedules should include at least 24 hours on domestic violence dynamics, laws, procedures and departmental policies in Academy classes, so that officers will understand the appropriate response; and

WHEREAS, additional training should be required each year for line officers and detectives, as well as to the rest of the command staff; and

WHEREAS, dispatchers should receive comparable training designed to address their unique role in the police response,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors encourage cities, counties and states to implement teen domestic violence and teen dating violence awareness campaigns and healthy relationship programs in their school districts, and support increased funding for prevention programs and implementation of curriculum on teen dating violence in the schools and in juvenile halls; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors endorses increasing training opportunities and training requirements for law enforcement agencies around the country on responding to domestic violence cases.

REGARDING HUMAN TRAFFICKING

WHEREAS, human trafficking is the world's largest criminal enterprise, and poses a significant threat in the United States; and

WHEREAS, human traffickers' criminal enterprise victimizes individuals, many of them children, who are forced into prostitution, and foreigners brought into the United States, often under false pretenses, who are coerced into forced labor or commercial sexual exploitation; and

WHEREAS, sex trafficking is one of the most lucrative forms of human trafficking, increasingly becoming part of criminal gang activity, with criminal gangs involved in recruiting young women and girls into sex trafficking; and sex trafficking is outpacing drug trafficking because criminal gangs find it more lucrative and less likely they will get caught; and

WHEREAS, experts estimate that each year at least 100,000 children in the United States are exploited through prostitution; and

WHEREAS, the average age of first exploitation through prostitution is 13, and 75 percent of minors exploited through prostitution have a pimp; and

WHEREAS, children who have run away from home are at a high risk of becoming exploited through sex trafficking; children who run away multiple times have an increased risk of not returning home and of engaging in prostitution; and

WHEREAS, sex trafficking of minors is a complex and varied criminal problem that requires a multi-disciplinary, cooperative solution requiring government at all levels to address victims, pimps, and johns, and to provide training specific to sex trafficking for law enforcement officers and prosecutors, and for child welfare, public health, and other social service providers; and

WHEREAS, human trafficking is a criminal enterprise that imposes significant costs on the economy of the United States, and government and non-profit resources used to address trafficking include those of law enforcement, the judicial and penal systems, and social service providers; and

WHEREAS, without a range of appropriate treatments to help trafficking victims overcome the trauma they have experienced, victims will continue to be exploited by criminals and unable to support themselves, and will continue to require government resources, rather than being productive contributors to the economy; and

WHEREAS, human trafficking victims are often either not identified as trafficking victims or are mischaracterized as criminal offenders and both private and public sector personnel play an important role in helping authorities to identify trafficking victims and potential victims, such as runaways; and

WHEREAS, examples of such personnel include hotel staff, flight attendants, health care providers, educators, and parks and recreation personnel, and efforts to train these individuals can bolster law enforcement efforts to reduce human trafficking; and

WHEREAS, sex trafficking of minors is not a problem that occurs only in urban settings, and also exists in rural areas and on Indian reservations, and efforts to address sex trafficking of minors should include partnerships with organizations that seek to address the needs of such underserved communities,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors supports federal laws that require the updating of the National Crime Information Center to ensure that accurate information is collected on endangered juveniles, as well as legislation that assists victims of human trafficking by providing targeted funding for shelters for victims, assistance counseling and legal services, specialized training for law enforcement and social services, as well as funding for more law enforcement officers, and outreach and prevention efforts to deter offenders; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Congress should pass, and the administration should support the Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking Deterrence and Victims Support Act of 2011.

Projected Cost: Unknown

IN SUPPORT OF THE NATIONAL CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMISSION ACT OF 2011

WHEREAS, The United States Conference of Mayors has long advocated for reforms to achieve fairness and effectiveness in the criminal justice system; and

WHEREAS, the United States has by far the world's highest incarceration rate, with just five percent of the world's population but 25 percent of the world's prisoners; and

WHEREAS, the United States currently incarcerates nearly 2.4 million people in its prisons and jails – or one in every 100 U.S. residents; and

WHEREAS, the war on drugs – declared 40 years ago this weekend – has been the principal driver of mass incarceration in America; and

WHEREAS, roughly 500,000 Americans are behind bars for a drug law violation – an increase of 1200 percent since 1980; and

WHEREAS, although drug use is similar across racial and ethnic groups, minorities are incarcerated at higher rates and for longer periods of time; African Americans, for example, are 3.4 times more likely than Whites to be arrested for a drug crime; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors adopted a resolution at its 75th Annual Meeting declaring the war on drugs a failure and calling for fundamental changes to the U.S. criminal justice system, including a dramatic reduction in the number of nonviolent people behind bars and in the racial disparities created or exacerbated by the criminal justice system; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors adopted a resolution at its 74th Annual Meeting opposing mandatory minimum sentencing on both the state and federal levels and urging the creation of fair and effective sentencing policies; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors has a long established policy of promoting the successful re-entry of people leaving prison or jail; and

WHEREAS, post-incarceration re-entry programs are haphazard and often nonexistent, undermining public safety and making it extremely difficult for formerly incarcerated people to become full, contributing members of society; and

WHEREAS, the costs to our federal, state, and local governments of unjust and ineffective criminal justice policies continue to grow, yet a comprehensive evaluation of the U.S. criminal justice system has not been undertaken since 1967; and

WHEREAS, Virginia Senator Jim Webb and South Carolina Senator Lindsey Graham have introduced federal legislation—the National Criminal Justice Commission Act of 2011 – that would take the long-overdue step of creating a national, bi-partisan, blue-ribbon commission charged with undertaking a comprehensive, 18-month, top-to-bottom review of the criminal justice system and proposing concrete, wide-ranging reforms; and

WHEREAS, the commission will produce recommendations for changes in oversight, policies, practices, and laws designed to prevent, deter, and reduce crime and violence, improve cost-effectiveness, and ensure the interests of justice at every step of the criminal justice system; and

WHEREAS, the commission's purview would include making recommendations to reduce incarceration, reform U.S. drug policy, eliminate racial and gender disparities, improve re-entry efforts, and expand access to substance abuse treatment, mental health services and healthcare—goals that this Conference strongly supports;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the United States Conference of Mayors affirms its support for the National Criminal Justice Commission Act of 2011 and calls upon the United States Congress to enact the National Criminal Justice Commission Act of 2011 in the 112th Congress.

THE FIRE SERVICE VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT PROJECT

1. **WHEREAS**, over the past decade, more than 100 firefighters have been killed on the job each year, and more than 80,000 have suffered serious injuries; and
2. **WHEREAS**, these line-of-duty deaths and injuries are almost entirely preventable; and
3. **WHEREAS**, the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF) and the United States Fire Administration (USFA) have joined forces with every major fire service organization to develop a vulnerability assessment tool, a web-based, interactive protocol that will provide fire chiefs and fire officers with a systematic process to evaluate their community risks and resource capabilities, and identify areas of vulnerability to predictable and preventable risks; and
4. **WHEREAS**, at the end of the process, a department will have a customized report identifying areas and remedies for vulnerabilities linked to firefighter injuries and deaths; and
5. **WHEREAS**, it is expected that with this tool, firefighter injuries and deaths should decline, along with building safer communities for our citizens,
6. **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that The United States Conference of Mayors adopts the NFFF-USFA Vulnerability Assessment Project and invites its members to support and embrace this tool which will be valuable to them immediately and in the future; and
7. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the U.S. Conference of Mayors commends the NFFF-USFA and its partners, including the International Association of Fire Firefighters, the International Association of Fire Chiefs, Women in the Fire and Emergency Services, the International Association of Arson Investigators, the National Association of Hispanic Firefighters, the National Volunteer Fire Council, the International Association of Black Professional Fire Fighters, the North American Fire Training Directors, the Fire Department Safety Officers Association, and the National Fire Protection Association; and
8. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the U.S. Conference of Mayors commends Honeywell International, Inc. which is generously supporting this effort.

IN SUPPORT OF PRESIDENT OBAMA'S 2011 PRESCRIPTION DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION PLAN

WHEREAS, mayors are familiar with the consequences of our nation's fastest growing drug problem, prescription drug abuse, including the impact this epidemic has on our nation's metropolitan areas; and

WHEREAS, recently classified as an epidemic by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, prescription drug abuse is a serious health concern that is continuing to increase; and

WHEREAS, between 2004 and 2008, the estimated number of emergency department visits linked to the non-medical use of prescription pain relievers doubled; and

WHEREAS, the increase in the percentage of admissions for abuse of pain relievers spans every age, gender, race, ethnicity, education, employment level, and region; and

WHEREAS, many individuals who misuse prescription drugs, particularly teens and some parents, believe these substances are safer than illicit drugs because they are prescribed by a healthcare professional and dispensed by a pharmacist; and

WHEREAS, according to the 2008 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, among persons aged 12 or older who used pain relievers non-medically in the past 12 months, 55.9 percent got the pain relievers they most recently used from a friend or relative for free; and

WHEREAS, drug-induced deaths now outnumber gunshot deaths in America and are fast approaching motor vehicle crashes as the leading cause of injury death; and

WHEREAS, the Obama Administration recognizes the need to balance prevention, education, and enforcement, with the need for legitimate access to these controlled substances; and

WHEREAS, the 2011 Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention Plan reflects a national consultation process through which the Director of National Drug Control Policy consulted with mayors, health care professionals, law enforcement officials and other local community leaders to identify the best approaches to use in combating prescription drug abuse; and

WHEREAS, as a result of numerous visits to communities ravaged by prescription drug abuse, President Obama's Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention Plan reflects a multifaceted approach that brings together a variety of federal, state, local, and tribal entities; and

WHEREAS, the Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention Plan highlights four elements to help reduce the abuse of prescription drugs: education, prescription drug monitoring programs, proper medication disposal, and enforcement; and

WHEREAS, the policies outlined in the Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention Plan, when implemented, should reduce public spending while improving public health,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors endorses the approaches outlined in the Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention Plan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Conference of Mayors applauds the Plan's call to:

- Educate parents, youth, and patients about the dangers of abusing prescription drugs while requiring prescribers to receive education on the appropriate and safe use, and proper storage and disposal of prescription drugs;
- Implement and enhance prescription drug monitoring programs (PDMPs) in every state;
- Decrease the supply of unused prescription drugs in the home by developing convenient and environmentally responsible prescription drug disposal programs;
- Provide law enforcement with the tools necessary to eliminate improper prescribing practices and stop "doctor shopping" and drug-seeking behaviors.

ELIMINATING CONTRABAND TOBACCO SALES

WHEREAS, tobacco use is the foremost preventable cause of disease and premature death in America, and a major contributor to several of the leading causes of death among Americans, including heart disease, cancer, stroke and hypertension, and tobacco use causes more than 400,000 deaths in the United States each year, and nearly nine million Americans have chronic illnesses related to smoking; and

WHEREAS, tobacco use costs the economy millions of dollars in health care expenses and lost productivity; and

WHEREAS, the use of tobacco products by the nation's youth results in new generations of tobacco-dependent children and adults; and

WHEREAS, increased tobacco taxes have been associated with lower overall smoking rates and lower youth smoking rates in particular; and

WHEREAS, contraband tobacco sales undercut the public health gains of higher tobacco taxes; and

WHEREAS, contraband sale of tobacco is estimated to comprise a significant portion of tobacco sales, particularly in places with high tobacco taxes; and

WHEREAS, tax evasion by producers, distributors, wholesalers and retailers takes significant potential revenue from state and local governments, which could be used to fund tobacco prevention and cessation programs; and

WHEREAS, proceeds from contraband tobacco sales have been found to support other illegal activities, including terrorism activities against the United States, racketeering, and other organized crime;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges the Congress to support efforts by federal, state and local governments to curtail contraband tobacco sales by effecting measures to reduce sales of untaxed and under-taxed tobacco, end illegal high-volume interstate sales, and increase inspection and enforcement of existing laws; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges the Congress to enact legislation directed at reducing contraband tobacco sales, such as the Smuggled Tobacco Prevention Act introduced in prior sessions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges the Congress to support the implementation of a national encrypted tobacco tax stamp; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges the Congress to support the FDA's efforts to exercise its authority to "track and trace" tobacco products as

authorized under the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act (Tobacco Control Act) (Public Law 111-31).

**SUPPORTING AND URGING THE PASSAGE OF THE DEVELOPMENT RELIEF
AND EDUCATION FOR ALIEN MINORS (DREAM) ACT**

WHEREAS, the Development Relief and Education for Alien Minors (Dream) Act was first introduced in the Senate in 2001, and has failed on numerous occasions, and will be re-introduced in 2011; and

WHEREAS, the Dream Act provides immigration relief to high school students by allowing them to become permanent residents if they came to the United States as children (under the age of 16), are long-term United States residents (five years or more), have good moral character and attend an institution of higher learning or enlist in the military for at least two years; and

WHEREAS, children who have been brought to the United States illegally should not be punished for the alleged transgressions of their parents/guardians and deserve to be judged on their own character and merit regardless of their country of birth or immigrant status; and

WHEREAS, the Dream Act would provide young people with an incentive to move towards permanent residency, while pursuing further education or serving in the United States Armed Services; and

WHEREAS, approximately 50,000 to 70,000 undocumented students graduate from United States high schools each year without legal status, making it difficult for them to attend college, secure employment or join the military; and

WHEREAS, there is no benefit in the creation of an underclass through the denial of higher education or employment that would prevent individuals from competing in the global economy; and

WHEREAS, there may be numerous families residing in cities in this country whose children would benefit from the passage of the Dream Act; and

WHEREAS, the Dream Act is a practical, fair solution that upholds values of fair opportunity and strong work ethics; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors supports the passage of the Dream Act and encourages members of the United States Congress to support it,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors supports allowing undocumented alien children to become permanent residents after attending two years of college or joining the military if they came to the United States before the age of 16, have maintained continuous residence for five years, graduated from high school or obtained a general education diploma, and have good moral character; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on the United States Congress to pass the Dream Act expeditiously.

COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM AS A MEANS TO STRENGTHEN OUR ECONOMY, GLOBAL COMPETITIVENESS, AND SECURITY

WHEREAS, the United States is a nation of immigrants, a nation in which immigrants have made and continue to make important contributions to both our economy and culture; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors has historically recognized the economic contribution that immigrants have made to their communities by creating new jobs, developing innovative products and ideas, and complementing the skills of the U.S.-born workforce; and

WHEREAS, immigrants are the overwhelming majority of workers in the agriculture sector, harvesting the food that Americans eat; and

WHEREAS, according to the Institute for Taxation and Economic Policy, households headed by undocumented immigrants paid \$11.2 billion in state and local taxes in 2010; and

WHEREAS, studies have shown that immigrants are nearly 30 percent more likely to start a business than non-immigrants and the latest estimates by the Small Business Administration indicate that immigrant business owners generate \$67 billion in U.S. business income; and

WHEREAS, in order to stay globally competitive, the U.S. will need to retain the best and brightest university talent, including foreign born students; and

WHEREAS, immigrants currently represent 24 percent of U.S. scientists and 47 percent of U.S. engineers with bachelor or doctorate degrees; and

WHEREAS, according to the Congressional Budget Office, passage of the DREAM Act, a bill which allows unauthorized immigrant youth who entered the U.S. as children to earn a legal status if they meet rigorous requirements such as serving in the U.S. military or attending college, would reduce the deficit by \$1.5 billion over the next 10 years due to increased revenue collected from higher wages; and

WHEREAS, worksites should be places that grow the economy and there should be accountability for businesses that break the law by taking advantage of undocumented workers; and

WHEREAS, the lack of a comprehensive immigration policy has resulted in the exploitation of workers who provide needed services to communities, and the exporting of talented and skilled students; and

WHEREAS, it is unlikely, undesirable, and unreasonably costly to expect that immigration enforcement will remove more than 10 million undocumented immigrants from the interior of the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, the preferable policy outcome is for unauthorized immigrants to get on the right side of the law or face removal; and

WHEREAS, immigrants have demonstrated their patriotism through their valor and bravery in defending this country in numerous military conflicts; and

WHEREAS, by restoring order to our immigration system, such reform will make our nation more secure as well as meet our labor needs and uphold our basic values as a nation; and

WHEREAS, studies have revealed that increased violence across the border in Mexico can be directly attributed to illegal drug trafficking fueled in no small part by money and weapons that are flowing from the United States into Mexico and that this violence is negatively impacting border trade, border relations and Mexico's ability to assist the U.S. preserve the integrity of our southern border; and

WHEREAS, border security is critical to the safety, quality of life, and economic prosperity of the border regions of the United States; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors recognizes that it is the responsibility of the federal government to enforce borders and implement immigration policy,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges the President and Congress to take action to pass comprehensive immigration reform legislation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that such legislation should contain the following essential elements:

- The DREAM Act
- The AgJobs proposal to ensure a legal workforce in the agricultural industry
- Dedicated resources to secure the border
- A path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants that require a background check, payment of fines and other accountability measures
- Policies that encourage foreign students to stay in the U.S. to contribute to our economy, especially in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics fields; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls for increased federal resources targeted at improving interdiction at our borders for both north and southbound contraband, including funds, weapons and drugs, and urges the United States government to embrace technological solutions and the development of multilateral agreements to establish a North American security plan to improve border security; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Mayors should lead constructive dialogues in their cities to foster realistic solutions to fixing our broken immigration system to enhance our national security and economy.

**COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM TO ALLOW THE REDESIGNATION
OF HAITIAN TEMPORARY STATUS PROTECTION APPLICANTS TO RESIDENT
STATUS AND THE SUSPENSION OF REMOVAL OF HAITIAN NATIONALS**

WHEREAS, Haiti is the poorest nation in the Western Hemisphere and has long suffered through political instability, financial difficulties, violence, and hurricanes; and

WHEREAS, since the January 12, 2010 earthquake, the Department of Homeland Security has granted temporary status protection to thousands of Haitian nationals to allow them to stay in the United States which combats the massive migration by allowing working Haitians to remain in this country so they may continue to support relatives in Haiti; and

WHEREAS, conditions in Haiti have not improved over the past 15 months and there is still a need for Haitian nationals to continue to work and support relatives in Haiti; and

WHEREAS, on December 9, 2010, President Obama signed into law the Help Haitian Act of 2010; and

WHEREAS, there is a need for additional reform to ensure that Haitian nationals are protected by laws in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Haitians who have received Temporary Status Protection have become productive residents of the United States and their status should be changed and redesigned to resident status; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Homeland Security and the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services are charged with implementing immigration laws in this country and can spearhead necessary reforms of these laws; and

WHEREAS, denial of Temporary Protective Status and removal of Haitian nationals who entered the United States subsequent to January 12, 2010 would force them to return to a severely depressed region; and

WHEREAS, requiring individuals to return and live under current conditions in Haiti amounts to inhumane treatment and is inconsistent with our values as a country; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors supports immigration reform to include the re-designation of Haitian nationals who have been granted Temporary Status Protection to resident status and the suspension of the removal of undocumented Haitian nationals,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors supports immigration reform with re-designation of Haitian nationals who have been granted Temporary Protection Status to resident status and the suspension of the removal of undocumented Haitian nationals; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on President Obama, the United States Congress, and the Secretary of Homeland Security to institute immigration reform which protects the status of Haitian nationals residing in the United States.

Projected Cost: Unknown

**TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS FOR HAITIAN NATIONALS ENTERING THE
UNITED STATES BETWEEN JANUARY 13, 2010 AND DECEMBER 31, 2010 AND
SUSPENSION OF REMOVAL OF HAITIAN NATIONALS**

WHEREAS, Haiti is the poorest nation in the Western Hemisphere and has long suffered political instability, financial difficulties, violence, and natural disasters; and

WHEREAS, on January 12, 2010, Haiti was devastated by an unprecedented 7.0 Richter scale earthquake, which killed at least 250,000 people; left millions homeless or injured; and destroyed major Haitian government facilities; and

WHEREAS, thousands of Haitian nationals were forced to flee their homeland in search of a safe environment; and

WHEREAS, on January 14, 2010, President Obama stated that the disaster in Haiti “is one of those moments that call out for American’s leadership;” and

WHEREAS, Temporary Protective Status (TPS) suspends the removal of undocumented Haitians already in the United States and allows the granting of work permits effective for up to 19 months; and

WHEREAS, there are approximately 55,000 Haitian nationals who came to the United States between January 13, 2010 and December 31, 2010; and

WHEREAS, TPS for Haitian nationals who entered the United States during the year subsequent to the January 12, 2010 earthquake may prevent massive migration by allowing working Haitians to remain in this country so they may continue to support relatives in Haiti; and

WHEREAS, the Haitian government continues to work towards recovery from the earthquake and remediate exceptionally difficult living conditions that this disaster has caused, yet the people of Haiti continue to suffer under these conditions; and

WHEREAS, Temporary Protective Status has been afforded to nationals from El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua after natural disasters, and conditions in Haiti meet statutory requirements necessary for the designation of Temporary Protective Status; and

WHEREAS, a denial of Temporary Protective Status and removal of Haitian nationals who entered the United States subsequent to January 12, 2010 but before December 31, 2010, would force them to return to a severely depressed region which has suffered devastation of its infrastructure and essential public services; and

WHEREAS, requiring individuals to return and live under these conditions amounts to inhumane treatment and is inconsistent with our values as a country; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors supports the granting of TPS to Haitian nationals who entered the United States subsequent to the January 12, 2010 earthquake until December 31, 2010 and the suspension of the removal of undocumented Haitian nationals.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors supports the granting of Temporary Protective Status to those Haitian nationals who fled Haiti after the January 12, 2010 earthquake up until December 31, 2010 and sought safety in the United States.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the US Conference of Mayors calls upon the Secretary of Homeland Security, with whom such authority lies, to designate Haitian nationals who entered the United States between January 13, 2010 and December 31, 2010 as eligible for Temporary Protective Status; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on President Obama, the United States Congress, and the Secretary of Homeland Security to promptly suspend the removal of all Haitian nationals.

HOMELAND SECURITY LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUNDING

WHEREAS, federal funding for local government homeland security needs began soon after the attacks on the United States by Al Qaeda on September 11, 2001; and

WHEREAS, this funding has been administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) within the Department of Homeland Security; and

WHEREAS, this funding has included resources for training, equipment, telecommunications, investigations, firefighting and other priorities; and

WHEREAS, this funding has had a positive impact on the ability of the nation's cities to combat threats from terrorism and other challenges to public safety; and

WHEREAS, the House of Representatives recently passed a Fiscal Year 2012 appropriation which reduces first-responder funding by \$1.23 billion from fiscal 2011 and merges several grant programs including port security, transit security, the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) and others into one program, converts formula-based programs to competitive grants and also reduces the funding for firefighting grants;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress and the Administration to reject cuts and consolidation of local government homeland security programs through the appropriations process;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges that if Congress and the Administration seek any changes in local government homeland security programs that they do so in the context of the legislative authorization, not appropriations process, and only do so in consultation and cooperation with the nation's mayors;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Mayors to communicate to the Congress and Administration the dire consequences which will result from this loss in local homeland security funding if enacted in final form.

THE COPS PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) office was established in 1994 with the strong support and active involvement of the nation's Mayors; and

WHEREAS, since its establishment, the COPS office has provided vital assistance for public safety by awarding grants to the local police departments enabling more just approximately 122,800 officers to be added to their ranks; and

WHEREAS, in periods of fiscal challenge for local governments, these COPS hiring grants have provided irreplaceable resources for hiring new police officers, bringing back police officers who have been laid-off and preventing imminent layoffs; and

WHEREAS, the COPS Office has implemented its programs over the years in a streamlined manner and has shown a consistent willingness to work effectively with local governments to ensure that their COPS grants are administered well;

WHEREAS, Congress and the Administration will be making difficult decisions in the months ahead regarding the Fiscal Year 2012 budget and beyond;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors commends the COPS Office for the good job it has done in working with Mayors and police chiefs to enhance and extend public safety in the nation's cities;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress and the Administration, as they deliberate on the budget for Fiscal Year 2012 and beyond to retain the police hiring program of the COPS Office at a level sufficient to continue assisting the public safety needs of America's cities, allowing municipalities to adjust personnel independent of grant requirements.

ENERGY COMMITTEE

CALLING ON CONGRESS AND THE ADMINISTRATION TO SUPPORT PROPERTY ASSESSED CLEAN ENERGY (PACE) PROGRAMS

WHEREAS, utility bills represent a major part of operating costs for home and business owners; and

WHEREAS, the building sector accounts for 39 percent of the nation's energy use, 72 percent of its electricity use, one third of all global greenhouse gas emissions and represents the single largest, most accessible opportunity for deep emission cuts in the United States; and

WHEREAS, investing in cost-effective energy efficiency and renewable energy improvements to homes and businesses can save energy, cut utility bills up to \$140 billion per year, create thousands of local jobs, reduce reliance on fossil fuels, and dramatically reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) financing programs are an innovative local government solution to help property owners finance energy efficiency and renewable energy improvements – such as energy efficient boilers, upgraded insulation, new windows, solar installations, etc. – to their homes and businesses; and

WHEREAS, the PACE program removes many of the barriers of energy efficiency and renewable energy retrofits that otherwise exist for residential homeowners and businesses, particularly the high upfront cost of making such an investment and the long-term ability to reap the benefits of cost savings; and

WHEREAS, 24 states plus the District of Columbia have passed laws enabling local governments to develop PACE programs; and

WHEREAS, locally-administered PACE programs are an exercise of the traditional authority of local governments to utilize the tax code for public benefit; and

WHEREAS, PACE programs help local governments meet a core obligation to their citizens to maintain housing stock and improve housing opportunities for all citizens; and

WHEREAS, the PACE program is an achievement of the intergovernmental partnership to realize national policy goals, namely, reducing energy consumption, that will positively impact the fiscal conditions of every level of government; and

WHEREAS, despite PACE's great promise, the Federal Housing Finance Agency and the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency on July 6, 2010 issued statements that immediately forced existing PACE programs to halt operations and froze the development of dozens of PACE programs nationwide.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors (USCM) urges Congress to adopt legislation that clearly reaffirms the right of state and local governments to exercise liens or assess special taxes or other property obligations to protect and improve housing stock for the public good, including energy efficiency improvements, by directing federal regulators to enforce underwriting standards that are consistent with guidelines issued by the U.S. Department of Energy for PACE financing programs or by implementing any other appropriate measure.

CALLING ON CONGRESS AND THE ADMINISTRATION TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR THE EPA CLIMATE SHOWCASE GRANTS FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

WHEREAS, commercial, residential and public buildings are responsible for more than 40 percent of the nation's greenhouse gas emissions nationwide and cities are best suited to improve building codes, foster community-scale renewable energy, and create other programs and incentives to increase efficiency and reduce energy use in commercial and residential buildings; and

WHEREAS, the transportation sector produces one third of the nation's greenhouse gas emissions and cities can substantially reduce emissions and vehicle-miles traveled by promoting public transit and more effective land use and transportation planning; and
WHEREAS, cities have been laboratories of innovation, successfully pioneering and demonstrating cost-effective clean energy solutions; and

WHEREAS, over 1,025 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 U.S. Conference of Mayors has endorsed an 80 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from 1990 levels by 2050; and

WHEREAS, more than 430 local elected leaders from across America have called for additional federal resources for communities to implement greenhouse gas reduction and sustainability initiatives by endorsing the Climate Communities/ICLEI-USA Empowering Local Government Climate Action Blueprint; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is authorized under the Clean Air Act, via 42 U.S.C. Section 7403(a) & (b), to make grants to public agencies for demonstration projects to control and prevent air pollution; and

WHEREAS, Congress provided \$10 million in both Fiscal Years 2009 and 2010 for the EPA to provide grants to local governments to establish and implement climate change initiatives; and

WHEREAS, this grant program, dubbed by EPA as the 'Climate Showcase Communities' program is the only current ongoing source of federal funding that supports city initiatives to address climate change; and

WHEREAS, the Climate Showcase Communities program is one of the federal government's most competitive grant programs, with funding awarded to less than 6% of Fiscal Year 2009 applicants;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls upon Congress and the Administration to support funding for the Climate Showcase Communities program in Fiscal Year 2012 and in future years.
Projected Cost: \$20 million a year

SUPPORTING FULL AND DEDICATED FUNDING OF THE ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND CONSERVATION BLOCK GRANTS

WHEREAS, the nation faces unprecedented energy challenges, including rapidly escalating energy costs, over dependence on foreign sources of energy, and critical choices about energy resources that will affect the nation's future economic well-being and security; and

WHEREAS, ongoing federal investment in energy efficiency and renewable energy is critical to positioning America to be competitive in the global economy, increase American energy independence, build livable and sustainable communities, drive investment in new, clean energy solutions and create new, local jobs, aiding in our national economic recovery; and

WHEREAS, commercial, residential and public buildings are responsible for more than 40 percent of the nation's energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions and cities are best suited to improve and enforce building codes, foster community-scale renewable energy, and create other programs and incentives to increase efficiency and reduce energy use in commercial and residential buildings; and

WHEREAS, the transportation sector produces one third of the nation's greenhouse gas emissions and cities can substantially reduce emissions and vehicle-miles traveled by promoting public transit and more effective land use and transportation planning; and

WHEREAS, cities have been laboratories of innovation, successfully pioneering and demonstrating cost-effective clean energy solutions, 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, over 1,025 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 U.S. Conference of Mayors has endorsed a national goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 80 percent from 1990 levels by 2050; and

WHEREAS, more than 430 local elected leaders from across America have called for additional federal resources for communities to implement greenhouse gas reduction and sustainability initiatives by endorsing the Climate Communities/ICLEI-USA Empowering Local Government Climate Action Blueprint; and

WHEREAS, successful local government 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 are not 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 conceived and 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 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;

WHEREAS, the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA), a law established to stimulate the economy and create over three million jobs, provided \$3.2 billion for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant programs to develop and implement energy efficiency programs in their communities; and

WHEREAS, local governments are successfully utilizing their ARRA Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant funds to implement local strategies that create jobs, save energy, promote renewable sources, and cut greenhouse gas emissions;

WHEREAS, cities would benefit from knowing that a dedicated funding mechanism has been established for the EECBG to help them create better short and long term energy efficiency and conservation strategies in their communities,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on Congress and the Administration to appropriate full funding for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program in Fiscal year 2012, while supporting higher authorization levels in future years.

Projected Cost: \$2 billion a year

RESOLUTION TO PROMOTE THE GREENING OF THE RETAIL COMMUNITY

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors at its 78th Annual Meeting, adopted resolutions to promote green sustainable communities, in partnership with the U.S. Green Building Council; and

WHEREAS, America's cities are the "windows" to our nation, mayors are concerned about the competitive future of their communities, and the quality of life of their citizens, the U.S. Conference of Mayors has been on the cutting edge of recognizing the debilitating effects of global warming, climate change, and the inextricable tie to jobs, and the preservation of scarce natural resources in communities across the globe; and

WHEREAS, buildings in the United States are responsible for 35% of CO2 emissions, 40% of energy consumption, 13% of water consumption, and 15% of GDP per year, enhancing sustainability in all sectors of the commercial building is a business imperative to not only conserving scarce resources but also creating an estimated 2.5 million jobs ; and

WHEREAS, according to the United States Environmental Protection Agency, retailers spend nearly \$20 billion annually on energy. A 10% reduction in energy costs has an equivalent effect on operating income as a 1.26% increase in sales for the average retailer. Greening retail in communities not only saves energy and improves operating efficiencies for business owners; but enhanced sustainability practices reduces solid waste, conserves water, and improves air quality.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, The U.S. Conference of Mayors will encourage its members to work with local businesses to understand the important role retailers play in supporting sustainability goals of communities, and to encourage the retail community to transform store design and construction standards to support multiple pillars of sustainability. These pillars might include:

- Reducing energy consumption in retail stores
- Purchasing renewable energy whenever possible
- Reducing water consumption by a minimum of 10% in retail stores by 2015
- When possible, build new green stores and upgrade existing buildings to new energy efficient standards
- Develop a comprehensive recycling solutions for waste to include packaging, and consumer consumables
- Implement customer-facing and recycling programs in stores
- Encourage reusable packaging and carryout materials

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The U.S. Conference of Mayors encourages mayors to make available a compendium of best practices to make retail greener and more community-friendly through city-based websites and in conjunction with local environmental agencies, best practices might include:

- Retrofitting existing lighting to utilize only high-efficiency lighting, such as CFLs and LED technology

- Optimizing HVAC equipment through engineering commissioning and/or installation of Energy Management Systems (EMS) to monitor HVAC performance, these practices pay for themselves quickly through energy savings;
- Formalizing operations standards to inform employees exactly when equipment should be turned on and turned off during the day and at closing
- Installing (often off the shelf) water conservation equipment to reduce water usage, In the longer term, purchasing equipment with Energy Star ratings and proven water-saving technologies
- Using locally sourced and reclaimed materials during renovations and remodels, not only does this reduce environmental impact, it supports the health of local businesses
- Negotiating lease language with landlords to ensure recycling infrastructure and service is included in occupancy costs, where energy, water and trash are managed by the landlord
- Negotiating lease language to reward sustainable behavior by the retail location instead of paying set fees for water, energy and trash, request sub-metering of energy and water use and have occupancy costs reflect actual usage and actual diversion of waste from trash to recycling
- Participating directly with local policymakers in the development of local ordinances and regulation impacting retail, and supporting proactive environmental policies in communities, the U.S. Conference of Mayors value insights from the local business community in finding common solutions to shared sustainability goals around landfill diversion and energy efficiency.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The United States Conference of Mayors believe partnerships formed between local governments, trade associations, environmental organizations, businesses, and local citizens are an efficient method to propagate effective policies that help create sustainable green retail solutions for communities.

SUPPORT FOR THE GREEN AND HEALTHY HOMES INITIATIVE AND EFFORTS TO EXPAND THE NATION'S STOCK OF AFFORDABLE, GREEN, HEALTHY, AND SUSTAINABLE HOUSING

WHEREAS, HUD's American Housing Survey found that 6 million households live with moderate to severe physical housing problems, which place them at risk for various illnesses and injuries including lead poisoning, asthma triggers, house fires, and slip and falls; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors' Lead Safe for Kids program has provided over \$4 million over the last 10 years and has been put to work in more than 40 cities, helping to contribute to the significant reduction of children with elevated blood lead levels from 4.4% of children under 6 years old in 1991 to less than 0.59% today; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors aided in the creation of HUD's Lead Hazard Reduction Demonstration Program, which to date has provided \$353.8 million to reduce lead hazards in cities around the nation.

WHEREAS, other home-based health hazards negatively impact cities and families including 40% of asthma episodes triggered by home conditions costing \$5 billion annually in healthcare costs, and 13 million preventable home related injuries costing \$222 billion annually, as well as the 250,000 children still impacted by elevated blood lead levels costing \$43.4 billion in lost earning potential; and

WHEREAS, the success gained on addressing lead can be expanded to address the host of home-based health hazards that historically have only been addressed by individual programs rather than comprehensively; and

WHEREAS, low income households spend 14% of income on energy compared with only 3.5% for other households resulting in increased foreclosure and eviction risks; and

WHEREAS, the Green and Healthy Homes Initiative (GHHI) has emerged as a new model to improve communities and the lives of those living within them by aligning programs, braiding funding streams, and coordinating interventions to address home based health and safety hazards and energy deficiencies, resulting in: improved energy efficiency with fewer environmental impacts; better health outcomes for our children, seniors and families; more efficient use of public investment through improved interagency coordination; higher quality green jobs; reduced barriers to school attendance and work among families with young children; reduced energy costs for low and moderate income families; more effective and sustainable home investments; an

WHEREAS, GHHI maximizes public and philanthropic investments for 5 major benefits: government innovation in service delivery; development of sustainable community-based "green collar" jobs and social enterprise; creation of stable and sustainable green and healthy homes in low and moderate income neighborhoods; measurable improvements in health outcomes for children, seniors, and families; wealth retention and improved property values; and

WHEREAS, initial results have shown significant reductions in the incidents of severe asthma; reduced emergency room visits, hospitalizations and doctor visits, and school absences; blood lead levels have been reduced to below CDC action levels; reduced energy consumption and lower energy bills; intervention cost savings from integrating services and reducing duplicative work; and higher wages earned by persons trained in green, healthy and lead safe assessments and interventions; and

WHEREAS, GHHI is working to inform the Federal Healthy Homes Work Group (comprised of HUD, DOE, HHS, DOL, EPA, DOA, and the National Institute of Standards and Technology, among others) and state and local agencies in the development of a national green and healthy housing standard; and

WHEREAS, the National Academy of Public Administration issued the report, “Achieving Green and Healthy Homes and Communities in America” and recommended GHHI be taken to scale nationally; and

WHEREAS, HUD’s paper, “From Recovery to Reinvestment, the Impact of the Recovery Act on America’s Cities” sets a goal of 100,000 Green and Healthy Homes across the nation over the next 3 to 5 years; and

WHEREAS, GHHI provides the opportunity to promote and advance affordable and safe housing post ARRA through recapturing the savings from efficiencies and leveraging diverse sources of investment.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on our members to support the Green and Healthy Homes Initiative and the federal government’s plan for expansion to produce 100,000 Green and Healthy Homes in the next 3 to 5 years.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to provide funding for federal programs and local green and healthy homes initiatives that support braiding funding streams and coordinating interventions to address home health and safety hazards and energy deficiencies.

BET IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on our members to model effective GHHI systems reforms that can be done without significant cost including:

- Aligning agencies, departments, and programs, braiding diverse funding streams, and coordinating housing intervention efforts;
- Establishing an effective local collaborative partnership including nongovernmental organizations, philanthropic entities, and private sector companies to advance the green and healthy effort;
- Utilizing comprehensive assessment tools to assess multiple home-based health hazards and energy efficiency issues;
- Supporting integrated training of workers in green and healthy home related fields;
- Establishing streamlined and efficient systems for residents to receive multiple housing services through a single portal;
- Moving toward shared data and common metrics among city departments and agencies.

IN SUPPORT OF THE BETTER BUILDING INITIATIVE

1. **WHEREAS**, commercial buildings consume approximately 20 percent of all energy in the U.S. economy; and
2. **WHEREAS**, with gasoline prices over \$4.00 a gallon, energy is a precious resource that should not be squandered; and
3. **WHEREAS**, Mayors are leaders of their regional economy and can have a transformative effect on energy and job creation; and
4. **WHEREAS**, President Obama has laid out the Better Building Initiative, a goal to improve building efficiency by 20 percent within 10 years; and
5. **WHEREAS**, improving energy efficiency in buildings can create jobs, save energy costs to businesses, and clean the environment; and
6. **WHEREAS**, achieving the Better Building Initiative goal can reduce businesses owners' energy expenses by \$40 billion per year; and
7. **WHEREAS**, job creation is especially vital in metro economies, where unemployment in the construction industry hovers around 22.5%; and
8. **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges the Obama Administration to partner with mayors and cities to make the Better Building Initiative a success and should connect cities to its Better Building Challenge, to continue to support the Energy Star Program ; and
9. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that as leaders of their economy, The U.S. Conference of Mayors support mayors to convene national and regional financial institutions to partner with cities to finance energy efficiency projects in buildings; and
10. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that The U.S. Conference of Mayors support Congressional passage of "Race to Green", a competitive grant program to incentivize states and local governments to streamline standards and codes related to energy efficiency; and
11. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urge Congress to support the Obama Administration's proposal to redesign the current tax deduction for commercial building upgrades to a tax credit that will incentivize building owners to retrofit their properties.

SUPPORTING ELECTRIC VEHICLES

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors is committed to providing leadership on environmental and public health issues by implementing and promoting programs and policies that improve the lives of residents, businesses, visitors and the environment; and

WHEREAS, the nation's Mayors are committed to aggressive actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in order to curb climate change and reduce its adverse affects; and

WHEREAS, the transportation sector produces one-third of all greenhouse gas emissions in the United States; and

WHEREAS, U.S. automobiles and light trucks are responsible for nearly half of all greenhouse gases emitted by automobiles globally; and

WHEREAS, a number of cities have served as leaders in efforts to decrease the nation's dependence on petroleum and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by accelerating the deployment of plug-in electric drive vehicles and electric vehicle supply equipment; and

WHEREAS, in order to promote rapid transition from gasoline vehicles to electric vehicles, cities around the country are installing a network of publicly accessible EV charging stations to give potential purchasers of EVs confidence that they will be able to locate charging opportunities if needed when they drive beyond the comfort range of their home charging locations; and

WHEREAS, President Obama has set a goal of putting 1 million EVs on the road in the United States by 2015; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors will commit to promoting the cleanest vehicles available and making the United States the world's most successful electric vehicle market; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls upon Congress and the Administration to promote the widespread adoption of electric vehicles in the United States by appropriating significant funding and research and development support for plug-in electric drive vehicles and electric vehicle supply equipment.

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

CALLING ON CONGRESS AND THE ADMINISTRATION TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR THE EPA CLIMATE SHOWCASE GRANTS FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

WHEREAS, commercial, residential and public buildings are responsible for more than 40 percent of the nation's greenhouse gas emissions nationwide and cities are best suited to improve building codes, foster community-scale renewable energy, and create other programs and incentives to increase efficiency and reduce energy use in commercial and residential buildings; and

WHEREAS, the transportation sector produces one third of the nation's greenhouse gas emissions and cities can substantially reduce emissions and vehicle-miles traveled by promoting public transit and more effective land use and transportation planning; and

WHEREAS, cities have been laboratories of innovation, successfully pioneering and demonstrating cost-effective clean energy solutions; and

WHEREAS, over 1,025 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 U.S. Conference of Mayors has endorsed an 80 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from 1990 levels by 2050; and

WHEREAS, more than 430 local elected leaders from across America have called for additional federal resources for communities to implement greenhouse gas reduction and sustainability initiatives by endorsing the Climate Communities/ICLEI-USA Empowering Local Government Climate Action Blueprint; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is authorized under the Clean Air Act, via 42 U.S.C. Section 7403(a) & (b), to make grants to public agencies for demonstration projects to control and prevent air pollution; and

WHEREAS, Congress provided \$10 million in both Fiscal Years 2009 and 2010 for the EPA to provide grants to local governments to establish and implement climate change initiatives; and

WHEREAS, this grant program, dubbed by EPA as the 'Climate Showcase Communities' program is the only current ongoing source of federal funding that supports city initiatives to address climate change; and

WHEREAS, the Climate Showcase Communities program is one of the federal government's most competitive grant programs, with funding awarded to less than 6% of Fiscal Year 2009 applicants,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls upon Congress and the Administration to support funding for the Climate Showcase Communities program in Fiscal Year 2012 and in future years.

Projected cost: \$20 million a year

SUPPORTING FULL AND DEDICATED FUNDING OF THE ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND CONSERVATION BLOCK GRANTS

WHEREAS, the nation faces unprecedented energy challenges, including rapidly escalating energy costs, over dependence on foreign sources of energy, and critical choices about energy resources that will affect the nation's future economic well-being and security; and

WHEREAS, ongoing federal investment in energy efficiency and renewable energy is critical to positioning America to be competitive in the global economy, increase American energy independence, build livable and sustainable communities, drive investment in new, clean energy solutions and create new, local jobs, aiding in our national economic recovery; and

WHEREAS, commercial, residential and public buildings are responsible for more than 40 percent of the nation's energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions and cities are best suited to improve and enforce building codes, foster community-scale renewable energy, and create other programs; and

WHEREAS, the transportation sector produces one third of the nation's greenhouse gas emissions and cities can substantially reduce emissions and vehicle-miles traveled by promoting public transit and more effective land use and transportation planning; and

WHEREAS, cities have been laboratories of innovation, successfully pioneering and demonstrating cost-effective clean energy solutions, 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, over 1,025 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 U.S. Conference of Mayors has endorsed a national goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 80 percent from 1990 levels by 2050; and

WHEREAS, more than 430 local elected leaders from across America have called for additional federal resources for communities to implement greenhouse gas reduction and sustainability initiatives by endorsing the Climate Communities/ICLEI-USA Empowering Local Government Climate Action Blueprint; and

WHEREAS, successful local government 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 are not 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 conceived and 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 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; and

WHEREAS, the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA), a law established to stimulate the economy and create over three million jobs, provided \$3.2 billion for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant programs to develop and implement energy efficiency programs in their communities; and

WHEREAS, local governments are successfully utilizing their ARRA Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant funds to implement local strategies that create jobs, save energy, promote renewable sources, and cut greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, cities would benefit from knowing that a dedicated funding mechanism has been established for the EECBG to help them create better short and long term energy efficiency and conservation strategies in their communities,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on Congress and the Administration to appropriate full funding for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program in Fiscal year 2012, while supporting higher authorization levels in future years.

Projected cost: \$2 billion a year

RESOLUTION TO PROMOTE THE GREENING OF THE RETAIL COMMUNITY

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors at its 78th Annual Meeting, adopted resolutions to promote green sustainable communities, in partnership with the U.S. Green Building Council; and

WHEREAS, America's cities are the "windows" to our nation, mayors are concerned about the competitive future of their communities, and the quality of life of their citizens, the U.S. Conference of Mayors has been on the cutting edge of recognizing the debilitating effects of global warming, climate change, and the inextricable tie to jobs, and the preservation of scarce natural resources in communities across the globe; and

WHEREAS, buildings in the United States are responsible for 35% of CO₂ emissions, 40% of energy consumption, 13% of water consumption, and 15% of GDP per year, enhancing sustainability in all sectors of the commercial building is a business imperative to not only conserving scarce resources but also creating an estimated 2.5 million jobs ; and

WHEREAS, according to the United States Environmental Protection Agency, retailers spend nearly \$20 billion annually on energy. A 10% reduction in energy costs has an equivalent effect on operating income as a 1.26% increase in sales for the average retailer. Greening retail in communities not only saves energy and improves operating efficiencies for business owners; but enhanced sustainability practices reduces solid waste, conserves water, and improves air quality.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, The U.S. Conference of Mayors will encourage its members to work with local businesses to understand the important role retailers play in supporting sustainability goals of communities, and to encourage the retail community to transform store design and construction standards to support multiple pillars of sustainability. These pillars might include:

- Reducing energy consumption in retail stores
- Purchasing renewable energy whenever possible
- Reducing water consumption by a minimum of 10% in retail stores by 2015
- When possible, build new green stores and upgrade existing buildings to new energy efficient standards
- Develop a comprehensive recycling solutions for waste to include packaging, and consumer consumables
- Implement customer-facing and recycling programs in stores
- Encourage reusable packaging and carryout materials

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The U.S. Conference of Mayors encourages mayors to make available a compendium of best practices to make retail greener and more community-friendly through city-based websites and in conjunction with local environmental agencies, best practices might include:

- Retrofitting existing lighting to utilize only high-efficiency lighting, such as CFLs and LED technology

- Optimizing HVAC equipment through engineering commissioning and/or installation of Energy Management Systems (EMS) to monitor HVAC performance, these practices pay for themselves quickly through energy savings;
- Formalizing operations standards to inform employees exactly when equipment should be turned on and turned off during the day and at closing
- Installing (often off the shelf) water conservation equipment to reduce water usage, In the longer term, purchasing equipment with Energy Star ratings and proven water-saving technologies
- Using locally sourced and reclaimed materials during renovations and remodels, not only does this reduce environmental impact, it supports the health of local businesses
- Negotiating lease language with landlords to ensure recycling infrastructure and service is included in occupancy costs, where energy, water and trash are managed by the landlord
- Negotiating lease language to reward sustainable behavior by the retail location instead of paying set fees for water, energy and trash, request sub-metering of energy and water use and have occupancy costs reflect actual usage and actual diversion of waste from trash to recycling
- Participating directly with local policymakers in the development of local ordinances and regulation impacting retail, and supporting proactive environmental policies in communities, the U.S. Conference of Mayors value insights from the local business community in finding common solutions to shared sustainability goals around landfill diversion and energy efficiency.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The United States Conference of Mayors believe partnerships formed between local governments, trade associations, environmental organizations, businesses, and local citizens are an efficient method to propagate effective policies that help create sustainable green retail solutions for communities.

SUPPORTING ELECTRIC VEHICLES

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors is committed to providing leadership on environmental and public health issues by implementing and promoting programs and policies that improve the lives of residents, businesses, visitors and the environment; and

WHEREAS, the nation's Mayors are committed to aggressive actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in order to curb climate change and reduce its adverse affects; and

WHEREAS, the transportation sector produces one-third of all greenhouse gas emissions in the United States; and

WHEREAS, U.S. automobiles and light trucks are responsible for nearly half of all greenhouse gases emitted by automobiles globally; and

WHEREAS, a number of cities have served as leaders in efforts to decrease the nation's dependence on petroleum and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by accelerating the deployment of plug-in electric drive vehicles and electric vehicle supply equipment; and

WHEREAS, in order to promote rapid transition from gasoline vehicles to electric vehicles, cities around the country are installing a network of publicly accessible EV charging stations to give potential purchasers of EVs confidence that they will be able to locate charging opportunities if needed when they drive beyond the comfort range of their home charging locations; and

WHEREAS, President Obama has set a goal of putting 1 million EVs on the road in the United States by 2015; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors will commit to promoting the cleanest vehicles available and making the United States the world's most successful electric vehicle market; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls upon Congress and the Administration to promote the widespread adoption of electric vehicles in the United States by appropriating significant funding and research and development support for plug-in electric drive vehicles and electric vehicle supply equipment.

CLOSING THE RECYCLING LOOP- AFFIRMATIVE SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT PROGRAM

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 the use of our precious natural resources, reduce our carbon footprint, and potable water consumption; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) collects and reports data on the generation and disposal of waste in the United States: In 2007, Americans generated about 254 million tons of trash or 4.6 pounds per person per day. On average, we recycled and composted only 1.5 pounds of our 4.6 pounds of individual waste generation. In addition the Construction and demolition waste generated annually was 170,000 million tons or 3.2 pounds per capita per day; and

WHEREAS, Aluminum, for example, requires 96 percent less energy to make from recycled cans than it does to process from bauxite. Recycled plastic bottles use 76 percent less energy and newsprint about 45 percent less. Across the board, the key factor is the energy intensity of extracting virgin materials, which is an order of magnitude higher than that of recovering the same material through recycling. It takes 10.4 million Btu to manufacture products from a ton of recyclables, compared to 23.3 million Btu for virgin materials; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors believes that virgin resource reduction and increased corporate responsibility to produce products that are both made of recycled content and are recyclable will have a positive economic and environmental impact on U.S. cities in the coming decades by reducing the current fiscal liabilities for waste, eliminate the need for landfills, promote product innovation, reduce water and energy consumption and create sustainable economic development;

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors believes that we can begin to shift the fiscal burden of waste and empower industry to embrace resource responsibility by rewarding stewardship through purchasing and economic development strategies. If cities, communities and the federal government commit to the purchase of products with the highest level of environmental stewardship then Industry will begin to accept financial responsibility for both the virgin resource input and the waste output that flows through the corporation,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors believes that the following Sustainable Procurement Guidelines will further this effort; and are defined as follows:

- Recycled Content: Purchasing preferences will be given to products containing the highest level of producer responsibility as defined below:
- Post Consumer Close Loop Stewardship. Manufacturer reclaims its own product waste at the end of life and reuses its own waste product as its feedstock for its new product. This is the most technically challenging process but is also the most sustainable. This process

fulfills all levels of environmental stewardship and is the ultimate goal for all manufacturing processes.

- Post Consumer Open Loop Content. Manufacturer uses other people's waste at the end of life and uses other people's waste as its feedstock for its new product. This empowers recycled content in new product development but leaves disconnect between the manufacturer and its own product waste stream.
- Pre-Consumer/Post Industrial Content. Manufacturer reclaims manufacturing waste and uses it as feedstock for its new product. This, at minimum, should empower new efficiencies and foster the beginnings of environmental stewardship.
- Recyclable: All products purchased must be certified as recyclable. Products must validate that at the end of life the embodied water, energy and material can be recycled for further product development reducing the need for virgin resource extraction.
- Water Reduction: Preference will be given to manufacturers and products utilizing waterless or low water technologies in the manufacturing process.
- Climate Neutral Certificate: All products purchased should provide a 3rd party validated climate neutral certificate guaranteeing the municipality that there are no hidden carbon liabilities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors encourages all Mayors and the Federal Government to create An Affirmative Sustainable Procurement Program; closing the recycling loop, encouraging the development of recycled/recyclable products, fostering extended producer responsibility and creating an innovative, sustainable marketplace.

ENDORISING U.S. WATER AND ENERGY WISE INDUSTRY

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 the use of our precious natural resources, particularly water consumption and energy related water use; and

WHEREAS, according to a report published in 2003 by the U.S. General Accounting office at least 36 states are expected to experience some kind of water shortage by 2013; and

WHEREAS, data from the U.S. Geological Surveys indicates that the United States uses 408 billion gallons of water every day (345 billion of which is freshwater) as follows:

- Nearly 47 billion gallons of fresh water are used for public water supply systems and domestic use;
- More than 195 billion gallons, including 136 billion gallons of fresh water and 59.4 billion gallons of saline water are used in energy production and for thermoelectric power plants;
- More than 142 billion gallons of fresh water are used to irrigate crops, water livestock, and meet other agricultural needs;
- More than 23 billion gallons including 20 billion gallons of freshwater and just under 3 billion gallons of saline water, are used by industry and mining; and

WHEREAS, available surface water supplies have not increased in 20 years, and groundwater tables and supplies are dropping at an alarming rate. New ecological water demands and changing climate could reduce available freshwater supplies even more while our populations continue to grow and move to areas with already limited water supplies; and

WHEREAS, energy production is the largest consumer of water in the United States and in addition over 23 billion gallons of water use per day relates directly to our industrial base in the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, our economic strength and viability is inextricably linked to our access to water and energy for our industries; and

WHEREAS, some manufacturer's in the United States have taken the initiative to invest in alternative energy production and processes whereby the use of water in their manufacturing process has been reduced or eliminated and that they have further invested in the reuse of existing materials and reduced their dependency on virgin resources for their product input production; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors believes that water reduction and increased corporate responsibility to produce products that are both made with low or no water inputs and use waterless alternative energy sources, such as solar, for the production base will have a positive economic and environmental impact on U.S. cities,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors believes that we can empower industry to embrace water resource responsibility by rewarding water stewardship through purchasing and economic development strategies. Empowering the success of these industries through environmentally sound purchasing practices that must include the quantification of water use; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors encourages all Mayors and the Federal Government to create a process that acknowledges and rewards water stewardship in our procurement process; ensuring the continued viability of our economic prosperity and the health of our water resources for future generations.

WATER INFRASTRUCTURE INNOVATIVE FINANCING: ENABLING LOW-COST MECHANISMS TO LEVERAGE FUNDING FOR CRITICAL NEEDS

WHEREAS, the need to repair, replace and overhaul the nation's water systems is immense, with much of the nation's water infrastructure built over 100 years ago and rapidly deteriorating; and

WHEREAS, the nation's water infrastructure must be updated to continue providing clean and safe drinking water and waterways; and

WHEREAS, the Environmental Protection Agency reports that (1) \$334 billion is needed to invest in infrastructure improvements over 20 years to ensure the provision of safe water; and (2) \$202.5 billion is needed for publicly owned wastewater systems-related infrastructure needs over 20 years; and

WHEREAS, the municipal bond market and State Revolving Fund programs are the primary sources of financing for drinking water and wastewater projects, but current financing levels are insufficient; and

WHEREAS, customer rates and local charges are the primary means of paying for water service and infrastructure, but upfront investment needs are simply too high to be met with traditional means alone; and

WHEREAS, State Revolving Fund (SRF) loans are helpful for small and moderate-sized projects, but generally are not available for larger projects; and

WHEREAS, an innovative financing mechanism modeled after the Transportation Infrastructure Financing and Innovation Act (TIFIA) program offers a mechanism to provide direct loans and loan guarantees for water infrastructure projects at minimum cost to the federal government; and

WHEREAS, the budgetary costs to the federal government of this model are minimal and based on the risk of default; and

WHEREAS, in the case of TIFIA, \$122 million in annual funding appropriated translates into over \$1 billion in credit assistance – approximately a ten-to-one leverage ratio; and

WHEREAS, the historical default rate on water and sewer bonds is .04 percent, the risk of default on federal credit assistance is minimal, and the leverage ratio may be even greater; and

WHEREAS, the TIFIA program has been very successful and enjoys broad bi-partisan support; and

WHEREAS, unlike transportation projects, water systems and utilities have a built-in mechanism to repay federal credit assistance as they have existing revenue streams, but need upfront capital to finance improvements or expansions; and

WHEREAS, making credit available based on Treasury borrowing rates can reduce borrowing costs by up to 20 percent to accelerate water infrastructure investment; and

WHEREAS, a new innovative financing mechanism for water infrastructure would target the current gap in funding for large, regionally significant projects; and

WHEREAS, a new innovative financing mechanism would benefit all water infrastructure projects by making available direct loans to State Revolving Funds for a program of smaller projects; and

WHEREAS, federal credit in a project can also make the project more attractive for private capital and lower interest rates on private lending; and

WHEREAS, such an innovative financing mechanism works within the existing structure for water infrastructure finance by (1) building from and not duplicating existing programs; (2) maintaining the primary responsibility of local governments for the nation's water infrastructure; and (3) leveraging federal credit assistance to make it easier and less expensive for American communities to access public and private capital; and

WHEREAS, such an innovative financing mechanism can help meet the nation's water infrastructure needs while creating tens of thousands of jobs at minimal cost to the federal government;

WHEREAS, other innovative mechanisms to make water infrastructure more affordable have been pursued by cities such as:

- Implementing sustainable practices to complement natural water systems;
- Incorporating new designs and materials that conserve water and reduce infrastructure decay;
- Reframing cost projections that include operation as well as replacement;
- Replacement of expensive bulk chemical treatment methods for more natural approaches;
- Use of public/private partnership design/build methods that reduce cost and risk from local government finances;
- Assessing broader outcomes for municipal water systems to include not just the immediate connection service area but the entire watershed region;
- Implementing energy-saving measures to make water systems more efficient.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the U.S. Conference of Mayors supports the creation of a new innovative financing mechanism to address the nation's water infrastructure needs modeled on the existing TIFIA program;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the U.S. Conference of Mayors work with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to pursue regulatory latitude that allows cities to implement innovative financing mechanisms;

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to enact legislation in the 112th Congress to create new and innovative financing programs such as the TIFIA model.

Projected cost: Unknown

REFORMING THE CLEAN WATER ACT SEWER OVERFLOW POLICY TO ACHIEVE SUSTAINABLE LONG-TERM GOALS

WHEREAS, approximately 772 cities in the United States will be required to establish legally binding Long-term Control Plans (LTCPs) to comply with the Federal Clean Water Act regulations involving Combined Sewer Overflows and Sanitary Sewer Overflows (CSO/SSO) over the current and next decade; and,

WHEREAS, city LTCPs will involve the establishment of new infrastructure to reduce the discharge of untreated sewage and/or untreated storm water into local receiving waters; and the new infrastructure options available for this purpose involve major capital investments and recurring increases in user charges (increased rates) for the construction of new treatment facilities or additional treatment capacity at existing facilities, new separate and/or combined sewer lines to convey wet weather overflows to the new treatment facilities, underground storage facilities, additional monitoring, reporting, and compliance costs, additional operations and maintenance costs to municipalities; and,

WHEREAS, local government involved in CSO/SSO enforcement actions to establish LTCPs, or those who enter into voluntary negotiations with the US EPA and state regulators have demonstrated that the US EPA is reluctant to exercise the flexibility they adopted in the US EPA CSO Control Policy concerning affordability, compliance schedules, volume and frequency of annual overflows necessary to comply with Clean Water Act water quality standards, and inclusion of green infrastructure as part of a city's LTCP; and,

WHEREAS, the capital cost cities bear to comply with CSO/SSO policy are among the single-most costly public works projects in their history, often a single CSO/SSO LTCP is equal to or greater than all combined long-term debt incurred for public expenditures in a single period of time; and,

WHEREAS, the latest available Bureau of the Census report for 2008 states that local government annual revenues were \$1.53 trillion, local government annual expenditures were \$1.59 trillion, and outstanding long-term debt of local government in 2008 exceeds \$1.51 trillion it is clear that current spending for public purposes and long-term debt are twice the amount of annual revenues, and additional unfunded federal mandates that are not absolutely necessary or are not associated with an emergency situation are ill-advised and clearly not sustainable; and,

WHEREAS, the environmental benefits associated with U.S. EPA's interpretation of requirements under the CSO/SSO Control Policy are often vague and not discernable, and arguably do not balance with local economic goals, and in many cases create a cost-disincentive for commerce and industry, thus adversely impacting jobs, local income, and the local tax revenues and income of ratepayers to support the investments required to finance the LTCPs,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to amend the Clean Water Act to: create a true Federal/Local Partnership whereby the Federal government provides at least 50 percent of the cost of compliance with all regulations established under the Clean Water Act; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if Congress does not provide at least 50 percent of the costs, the Conference of Mayors urges Congress, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Department of Justice to provide the following relief to communities as it relates to CSO/SSO LTCPs:

- Compliance schedules related to CSO/SSO LTCPs be no less than 30 years (unless a city voluntarily chooses to comply in less than 30 years) and up to 50 years so that local government can finance investments to achieve compliance without diverting financing for other public priorities, to avoid forcing local governments into unreasonable levels of long-term public debt and to prevent the levying of unaffordable rates upon poor and middle class households;
- Local government should be allowed to incorporate green infrastructure solutions in their LTCPs, and the EPA should encourage incorporation of green infrastructure in LTCPs in tangible ways that allow experimentation and flexibility on control criteria and should provide a clearinghouse of green infrastructure options for cities to choose from; further, cities should be encouraged to amend their LTCPs to adjust the mix of green and gray infrastructure when the opportunity arises to increase energy efficiency and permeability;
- EPA should not stipulate an arbitrary number of overflows, but rather focus on the objective of achieving real improvements to water quality that are affordable and sustainable. Thus, local governments should not be restricted to four or less wet weather overflow events per year if that is not required to meet water quality standards under the Clean Water Act;
- When determining the affordability of the LTCP solution that a city is required to implement, EPA and DOJ should use the two percent of Median Household Income as the total cost of sewer operation's ceiling, not the floor, and other factors such as the cost/benefit analysis and carbon footprint impacts;
- Cities should only be held responsible for complying with water quality standards based on a reasonable assessment of the proportion of degradation they actually contribute to water bodies.

ESTABLISHING NUTRIENT BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES AND POLICIES TO PROTECT WATER QUALITY, PUBLIC HEALTH, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND JOB GROWTH

WHEREAS, local government has a vital role in protecting surface and ground water sources from contamination from nutrients and sedimentation through a variety of measures and initiatives, including land use control measures, water quality protection initiatives, and public education campaigns; and,

WHEREAS, effective surface and ground water source protection requires a multi-faceted and holistic effort that is comprehensive, flexible and proportional to the contribution of all identifiable point and non-point sources, including, but not limited to, urban and suburban septic systems, municipal and industrial waste water treatment plants, agricultural sources, construction and industrial sources, residential lawn care and commercial and institutional landscape maintenance, utilities, and vehicular traffic; and,

WHEREAS, all point and non-point source stakeholders must be part of a comprehensive solution to reduce impacts to water quality by engaging and advancing green space conservation and protection-related best management practices; and,

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors has long supported proportionality and comprehensive participation by all stakeholders in developing meaningful water protection policy, and that the U.S. Conference of Mayor's stated in its June, 2000 Resolution in Seattle entitled "Improving the Total Maximum Daily Load program under the Clean Water Act" to encourage U.S. EPA and the states to continue to make every effort to include both point sources and non-point sources proportionately in the ongoing TMDL processes underway in the states; and,

WHEREAS, clean and adequate water is vital to public health, the economy and a wide range of small and large businesses that depend on a clean and adequate water supply including manufacturing, energy generation, recreation, tourism, farming, development, fishing and shell-fishing, food processing and beverage production; and,

WHEREAS, there is a significant body of independent academic research that underscores the substantial environmental protection associated with properly-maintained green space, including water quality protection through erosion control and limiting nutrient contamination and that these benefits prepare cities to meet emerging federal storm water run-off policies which may require cities to control water where it lands by increasing permeability through the enhanced use of properly maintained green space; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayor's long-standing efforts to advance policies which support environmental sustainability through the responsible creation and expansion of healthy and well-maintained green space, which not only helps protect water sources from contamination and fights harmful erosion but also creates oxygen and helps sequester carbon emitted into the atmosphere in all of the nation's communities;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that cities adopt local policies to protect water sources that involve all stakeholders in efforts to increase permeability by encouraging the growth and maintenance of healthy green space and residential landscapes through policies that follow best management practices for fertilizer application and that are proportional to stakeholder contribution as reflected in recently adopted statewide laws in such states as Illinois, Michigan and New Jersey; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on state legislatures to enact uniform statewide nutrient management regimens that addresses point source and non-point source water pollution generated in all jurisdictions in a comprehensive, flexible and proportional manner.

IMPROVING EPA'S 8 HOUR OZONE STANDARDS

WHEREAS, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is crafting a new 8-hour ozone standard that is scheduled for publication on July 2011; and

WHEREAS, in excess of 345 counties across the country will be impacted by the new regulations; and

WHEREAS, the new standard encroaches on naturally-occurring background concentrations in some regions already classified as "extreme" nonattainment, meaning the technology does not currently exist to meet even the current less stringent standard; and

WHEREAS, failure to meet the new standard will have devastating economic impacts including a de facto ban on new or expanding businesses and the loss of federal highway funds; and

WHEREAS, failure to craft common sense approaches in the crafting and implementation of this standard will result in substantial backlash from the public and the business community that will be detrimental to clean air efforts,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that if a new 8-hour ozone standard is to be instituted, the U.S. Conference of Mayors supports a health-protective, "risk-based" standard that is supported by sound science, and takes into account the unique circumstances of affected regions throughout the country; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors expresses the need to secure Congressional appropriations to mitigate the economic impacts imposed by this regulation as well as accelerate the introduction of new cleaner technologies that would be required to reach attainment.

SUPPORTING THE REINSTATEMENT OF THE SUPERFUND TAX

WHEREAS, “Superfund” is the name given to the environmental program established to address hazardous waste sites, and is also the name of the fund established by the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980; and

WHEREAS, nearly 70 million Americans – 10 million of whom are children – live within four miles of a Superfund site, and are consequently exposed to toxic waste such as arsenic, benzene, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), pesticides, mercury and a range of solvents, and potentially contaminated groundwater; and

WHEREAS, the Superfund cleanup process is complex, as it involves the steps taken to assess sites, place them on the National Priorities List, and establish and implement appropriate cleanup plans; and

WHEREAS, the Superfund cleanup program was largely financed through a “polluter pays” excise tax to ensure that parties who benefit from the manufacture or sale of substances that commonly cause environmental problems at hazardous waste sites, and not taxpayers, help bear the cost of cleanup when responsible parties cannot be identified; and

WHEREAS, the Superfund “polluter pays” taxes expired on December 31, 1995, and since the expiration of the taxes, Superfund program funding has been largely financed from General Revenue transfers to the Superfund Trust Fund, thus burdening the taxpayer with the costs of cleaning up abandoned hazardous waste sites, and creating lengthy, burdensome and expensive legal proceedings

WHEREAS, on June 21, 2010, the Obama Administration called on Congress to reinstate the lapsed Superfund “polluter pays” taxes, stating that “Our taxes should be paying for teachers, police officers and infrastructure that is essential for sustainable growth -- not footing the bill for polluters;” and

WHEREAS, the re-enactment of the Superfund tax will expedite the cleanup of Superfund sites across the country, thereby reducing risk to humans and the environment,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the United States Conference of Mayors urges the passage and enactment of legislation to reinstate the Superfund excise tax.

**SUPPORT FOR A BROWNFIELD REMEDIATION AND ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT LOAN GUARANTEE PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, the current economic climate in conjunction with green energy innovations, land affordability and construction costs make it an ideal environment for the development of large Brownfields; and

WHEREAS, the comprehensive remediation and development of large Brownfields has the ability to create new jobs, increase revenue, and promote further development for cities; and

WHEREAS, the size and location of Brownfields make them an ideal candidate for implementing advanced green technology initiatives; and

WHEREAS, a 2010 US Conference of Mayor's survey of cities cited the number one reason for not developing Brownfields was a lack of funds and financing tools; and

WHEREAS, traditional financing mechanisms are insufficient in providing the funds and financing for the remediation and redevelopment of large tracts of Brownfields; and

WHEREAS, the federal government can act as a facilitator and guarantee the loan of funds necessary to remediate large Brownfields; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on Congress and the Administration to support the adoption of a Brownfield Remediation and Economic Development Loan Guarantee Program, which will establish a loan financing mechanism for the repayment of funds loaned specifically for the redevelopment of large Brownfields.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

SUPPORT OF THE NATIONAL EXPORT INITIATIVE

WHEREAS, exports are a significant economic engine to drive U.S. growth; and

WHEREAS, 95% of the world's potential customers and the most rapid growth in consumer demand are outside the United States; and

WHEREAS, U.S. exports as a percentage of Gross Domestic Product is smaller than other major trading partners, including China and Germany; and

WHEREAS, the pre-recession U.S. growth model driven by highly-leveraged domestic consumption cannot sustain recovery; and

WHEREAS, U.S. exports currently support more than 11 million jobs nationwide; and

WHEREAS, export-intensive industries pay higher wages than domestic-oriented industries, and jobs supported by the export of goods and services pay at least 15% more than the average non-export job; and

WHEREAS, to refocus and reaffirm U.S. global trade competitiveness, the National Export Initiative established a goal of doubling exports within five years, to \$3.14 trillion by 2015; and

WHEREAS, nearly 84% of all U.S. exports and 90% of services are generated in the nation's metropolitan areas; and

WHEREAS, exports are critical to the vitality of smaller metropolitan area economies, often representing a greater share of Gross Metropolitan Product and market opportunity; and

WHEREAS, mayors are the leaders in setting regional economic development direction and key conveners for private and public sector export stakeholders,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors is committed to making exports a top economic development priority in their metropolitan areas; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges the Obama Administration to more fully incorporate and support mayors as leading partners in implementing the National Export Initiative; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges the federal government to reduce institutional barriers and make it easier for local agencies and metropolitan areas to access and align with federal export grants and resources, such as

incorporating a metropolitan area focus into the State Trade and Export (STEP) grant program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges federal agencies to invest in helping localities create and implement Metropolitan Export Plans, customized to the economic characteristics of each region, detailing export goals, strategies, and implementation programs and products.

**COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM TO ALLOW THE REDESIGNATION
OF HAITIAN TEMPORARY STATUS PROTECTION APPLICANTS TO RESIDENT
STATUS AND THE SUSPENSION OF REMOVAL OF HAITIAN NATIONALS**

WHEREAS, Haiti is the poorest nation in the Western Hemisphere and has long suffered through political instability, financial difficulties, violence, and hurricanes; and

WHEREAS, since the January 12, 2010 earthquake, the Department of Homeland Security has granted temporary status protection to thousands of Haitian nationals to allow them to stay in the United States which combats the massive migration by allowing working Haitians to remain in this country so they may continue to support relatives in Haiti; and

WHEREAS, conditions in Haiti have not improved over the past fifteen months and there is still a need for Haitian nationals to continue to work and support relatives in Haiti; and

WHEREAS, on December 9, 2010, President Obama signed into law the Help Haitian Act of 2010; and

WHEREAS, there is a need for additional reform to ensure that Haitian nationals are protected laws in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Haitians who have received Temporary Status Protection have become productive residents of the United States and their status should be changed and redesigned to resident status; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Homeland Security and the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services is charged with implementing immigration laws in this country and can spearhead necessary reforms of these laws; and

WHEREAS, denial of Temporary Protective Status and removal of Haitian nationals who entered the United States subsequent to January 12, 2010 would force them to return to a severely depressed region; and

WHEREAS, requiring individuals to return and live under current conditions in Haiti amounts to inhumane treatment and is inconsistent with our values as a country; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors supports immigration reform to include the re-designation of Haitian nationals who have been granted Temporary Status Protection to resident status and the suspension of the removal of undocumented Haitian nationals,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors supports immigration reform with re-designation of Haitian nationals who have been granted Temporary Protection Status to resident status and the suspension of the removal of undocumented Haitian nationals; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on President Obama, the United States Congress, and the Secretary of Homeland Security to institute immigration reform which protects the status of Haitian nationals residing in the United States.

Projected cost: Unknown

**TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS FOR HAITIAN NATIONALS ENTERING THE
UNITED STATES BETWEEN JANUARY 13, 2010 AND DECEMBER 31, 2010 AND
SUSPENSION OF REMOVAL OF HAITIAN NATIONALS**

WHEREAS, Haiti is the poorest nation in the Western Hemisphere and has long suffered political instability, financial difficulties, violence, and natural disasters; and

WHEREAS, on January 12, 2010, Haiti was devastated by an unprecedented 7.0 Richter scale earthquake, which killed at least 250,000 people; left millions homeless or injured; and destroyed major Haitian government facilities; and

WHEREAS, thousands of Haitian nationals were forced to flee their homeland in search of a safe environment; and

WHEREAS, on January 14, 2010, President Obama stated that the disaster in Haiti “is one of those moments that call out for American’s leadership;” and

WHEREAS, Temporary Protective Status (TPS) suspends the removal of undocumented Haitians already in the United States and allows the granting of work permits effective for up to 19 months; and

WHEREAS, there are approximately 55,000 Haitian nationals who came to the United States between January 13, 2010 and December 31, 2010; and

WHEREAS, TPS for Haitian nationals who entered the United States during the year subsequent to the January 12, 2010 earthquake may prevent massive migration by allowing working Haitians to remain in this country so they may continue to support relatives in Haiti; and

WHEREAS, the Haitian government continues to work towards recovery from the earthquake and remediate exceptionally difficult living conditions that this disaster has caused, yet the people of Haiti continue to suffer under these conditions; and

WHEREAS, Temporary Protective Status has been afforded to nationals from El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua after natural disasters, and conditions in Haiti meet statutory requirements necessary for the designation of Temporary Protective Status; and

WHEREAS, a denial of Temporary Protective Status and removal of Haitian nationals who entered the United States subsequent to January 12, 2010 but before December 31, 2010, would force them to return to a severely depressed region which has suffered devastation of its infrastructure and essential public services; and

WHEREAS, requiring individuals to return and live under these conditions amounts to inhumane treatment and is inconsistent with our values as a country; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports the granting of TPS to Haitian nationals who entered the United States subsequent to the January 12, 2010 earthquake until December 31, 2010 and the suspension of the removal of undocumented Haitian nationals.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports the granting of Temporary Protective Status to those Haitian nationals who fled Haiti after the January 12, 2010 earthquake up until December 31, 2010 and sought safety in the United States.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls upon the Secretary of Homeland Security, with whom such authority lies, to designate Haitian nationals who entered the United States between January 13, 2010 and December 31, 2010 as eligible for Temporary Protective Status; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on President Obama, the United States Congress, and the Secretary of Homeland Security to promptly suspend the removal of all Haitian nationals.

SUPPORTING BIPARTISAN LEGISLATION TO PROTECT AMERICAN JOBS, BUSINESSES AND CONSUMERS THREATENED BY ONLINE THEFT

WHEREAS, in 2010 the United States Conference of Mayors affirmed that (1) American intellectual property, including the motion pictures, television programs, and sound recordings created by the U.S. entertainment industry are both an economic driver for cities and the U.S. economy and a cultural touchstone of our American heritage, and (2) called upon both the Obama Administration and Congress to develop workable solutions to protect audiovisual works and local jobs and revenues generated by film and television production.

WHEREAS, the entertainment industry and other intellectual property-intensive industries employ more than 19 million people and account for 60% of U.S. exports, and film and television production takes place in all 50 states, employing 2.4 million people, supported by 95,000 businesses, and fosters the building of local infrastructure and studio facilities in many cities.

WHEREAS, the jobs and revenue U.S. entertainment and other intellectual property-intensive industries generate are threatened by global online theft which, as evidenced by a 40% drop in global music sales over the past decade and a 19% drop in U.S. DVD sales over the past five years, is estimated at over \$206 billion.

WHEREAS, digital theft has become an illegal money-making business with the growth of “rogue” websites dedicated to stealing content and goods they have no role in financing or creating, and which appear to be legitimate due to access through search engines, payment with U.S. credit card companies, and supported by advertising revenue, put American consumers at risk of identity theft and others crimes; and these sites, when run by foreign profiteers, are often outside the reach of U.S. law enforcement.

WHEREAS, the online piracy encouraged by these “rogue” websites costs federal, state and local governments over \$2.6 billion in tax revenue annually and, if permitted to grow unabated, will lead to less production of entertainment and other intellectual property, which will have a direct and harmful impact on local revenues.

WHEREAS, two bi-partisan efforts are now underway in the U.S. Congress to address directly the illegal sale of stolen content and goods on the Internet; the first, the PROTECT IP Act introduced by Senator Patrick Leahy, with Senator Charles Grassley and Senator Orrin Hatch and 9 co-sponsors gives U.S. law enforcement agencies more effective means to take down rogue websites operated outside the U.S. and to remove the financial viability of such sites by restricting their access to search engines, payment processors, advertising networks, and ISPs; the second, S. 978, introduced by Senators Amy Klobuchar and John Cornyn, with Senator Christopher Coons, removes unwarranted obstacles to the prosecution of websites illegally streaming stolen content for commercial advantage or gain.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the members of the U.S. Conference of Mayors support the efforts of the entertainment industry and other IP-generating industries to combat, through a range of means, public and private, the online theft of motion pictures,

television programs, sound recordings, manufactured goods, pharmaceuticals and other intellectual property;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors calls upon Congress to pass the PROTECT IP ACT and S. 978, as much needed and important legislative initiatives to increase the ability of U.S. law enforcement to go after profit-making entities who willfully and knowingly steal intellectual property, with little or no regard for the cost in dollars, jobs, U.S. creativity and ingenuity, and revenue for cities across America.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the U.S. Conference of Mayors will work together with Members of Congress and those in the entertainment industry and other IP generated industries toward the passage of this important legislation.

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF IMPROVING INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL
FACILITATION THROUGH THE DISCOVER AMERICA PARTNERSHIP
REACTIVATION AND READY FOR TAKEOFF REPORT**

WHEREAS, international travel remains one of the few bright spots in a struggling global economy, America’s visa policies have deterred visitors from our shores, cost hundreds of thousands of jobs and deepened our recession; and

WHEREAS, the number of global long-haul travelers increased by 61 million from 2000 to 2010, the number of overseas visitors to the United States stayed flat; and

WHEREAS, overseas visitors to the United States are walking stimulus packages, each spending an average of more than \$4,000 per visit and failure to keep pace with the growth in international long-haul travel would cost the U.S. economy \$606 billion in total spending and \$37 billion in direct tax receipts; and

WHEREAS, in 2008 and 2009 alone, a total of 400,000 U.S. travel industry jobs were lost. Moreover, in addition to the impact on the travel industry, our nation’s travel policies discourage companies from using the United States as a destination for training, meetings and business development – including purchasing products – with international customers and colleagues; and

WHEREAS, the Discover America Partnership is a broad coalition of stakeholders united together to advance visa and entry reforms that will, by 2015, enable the United States to regain the 17 percent market share of overseas travelers it had in 2000, which would create over 1 million U.S. jobs by 2020; and

WHEREAS, on May 12, the U.S. Travel Association (USTA) released a comprehensive report – Ready for Takeoff – including 34 specific recommendations – to address America’s significant visa challenges in China, India, Brazil and other nations around the globe; and

WHEREAS, the report will form the basis for a targeted advocacy agenda to welcome millions of new international visitors by 2020 and create over one million new U.S. jobs.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors supports the U.S. Travel Association’s Ready for Takeoff report and the accompanying recommendations to improve the efficiency of the visa entry process; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we support the issuance of a presidential directive to recapture 17 percent of the global long-haul travel market and match Western Europe’s current share in the Brazil, China and India markets by 2015.

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

WHEREAS, the United Nations remains the singular institution where the world leaders and national governments can collectively discuss and resolve global problems; and

WHEREAS, the United Nations Association of the United States of America, a program of the United Nations Foundation, represents a network of 125 chapters and 12,000 citizens across the U.S. to help the UN tackle issues including climate change, children's health, peace and security, and poverty eradication; and

WHEREAS, mayors and local government have an integral responsibility in implementing local solutions to global problems facing our planet; and

WHEREAS, the interdependence of countries and communities demonstrates the important role mayors and local government have to positive affect the world.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors supports the United States' active leadership and engagement in the United Nations; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors encourages mayors across the United States to recognize October 24, UN Day, in their communities with events and programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors recognizes the vital work of United Nations Association of the United States of America in cities across America and encourages their citizens to become well-informed about international issues and how they affect their communities.

**CALLING ON THE PRESIDENT TO WORK WITH LEADERS OF OTHER NUCLEAR
WEAPON STATES FOR ELIMINATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS BY 2020 AND
CALLING ON CONGRESS TO CUT FUNDING FOR NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND TO
REDIRECT THOSE FUNDS TO MEET THE NEEDS OF CITIES**

WHEREAS, more than two decades after the end of the Cold War, nearly 23,000 nuclear weapons, over 95% of them in the arsenals of the United States and Russia, continue to pose an intolerable threat to cities and people everywhere;

WHEREAS, recent studies have shown that a nuclear war involving no more than 100 Hiroshima-sized bombs—about 0.3% of the global nuclear arsenal—could have catastrophic, long-lasting effects on the global climate leading to a drop in average surface temperatures, reduction of the ozone layer, a shortened agricultural growing season resulting in a global famine of unprecedented proportions;

WHEREAS, the 2010 U.S. Nuclear Posture Review did not lead to substantial changes in the U.S. nuclear force structure, only marginally reduced the role of nuclear weapons in national security policy, explicitly rejected reducing the high-alert status of Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles and Submarine Launch Ballistic Missiles, and retained the capability to deploy U.S. nuclear weapons on tactical fighter-bombers and heavy bombers, including at NATO bases in Europe, while proceeding with a modification of the bombs carried on those planes;

WHEREAS, a plan submitted to Congress by President Barack Obama projects investments of well over \$185 billion by 2020 to maintain and modernize U.S. nuclear weapons systems, including construction of three new nuclear warhead production facilities and an array of new delivery systems;

WHEREAS, although the U.S. stockpile contains one-fifth as many warheads as it used to, the Administration's Fiscal Year 2012 budget request is the largest ever for maintenance and modernization of nuclear warheads, and after accounting for inflation, the \$7.63 billion request is 21 percent more than President Ronald Reagan's largest nuclear weapons budget;

WHEREAS, reflecting President Obama's commitment to modernize all three legs of the strategic triad of nuclear weapons delivery systems, the FY 2012 budget request also includes \$197 million for research and development on a new Air Force long-range nuclear bomber, \$2.6 million to study a future Intercontinental Ballistic Missile, and \$1.07 billion to develop a new replacement ballistic missile submarine slated to be in operation through 2080, all of which will lead to far greater expenditures if production follows;

WHEREAS, with the economic downturn forcing mayors and cities to make deep cuts in critical public services, and with more than 100 metropolitan areas projected to have double-digit unemployment by the end of this year, the budget deal worked out between the Administration and Congress contains a 16.2 percent reduction in Community Development Block Grant formula funding – a \$647 million cut for the current year, eliminates Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants, and includes huge reductions to other domestic programs of importance to mayors and cities, the size of which have not been seen in recent times;

WHEREAS, Mayors for Peace membership has grown to over 4,700 cities in 150 countries and regions, including half of the world's capital cities, with more than 170 U.S. members;

WHEREAS, the United States Conference of Mayors unanimously adopted resolutions in 2004, 2006 and each year since, expressing its strong support for Mayors for Peace, its demand for negotiations for the global elimination of nuclear weapons by 2020, and its Cities Are Not Targets campaign;

WHEREAS, Mayors for Peace has been endorsed by national mayoral associations in Europe, Latin America, Asia and Africa;

WHEREAS, the final document of the 3rd Congress of United Cities and Local Governments, adopted in Mexico City November 20, 2010 expresses "our support for the call of the Mayors for Peace Campaign for a world free of nuclear weapons by 2020 through a new international Convention";

WHEREAS, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, in Hiroshima for the 65th anniversary of the U.S. atomic bombing on August 6, 2010 expressed his strong support for the Mayors for Peace 2020 Vision Campaign for the global abolition of nuclear weapons by 2020, declaring, "The 2020 vision is a perfect vision"; and the United Nations, on March 24, 2011 recognized the importance of Mayors for Peace by inaugurating a permanent installation at its New York headquarters exhibiting more than 1 million signatures on the Mayors for Peace Cities Are Not Targets petition;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors reaffirms its call on President Obama to work with the leaders of the other nuclear weapon states to implement the United Nations Secretary-General's Five Point Proposal for Nuclear Disarmament forthwith, so that a Nuclear Weapons Convention or a related framework of mutually reinforcing legal instruments can be agreed upon and implemented by the year 2020, as urged by Mayors for Peace; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on the U.S. Congress to terminate funding for modernization of the nuclear weapons complex and nuclear weapons systems, to slash spending on nuclear weapons programs well below Cold War levels, and to redirect those funds to meet the urgent needs of cities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors, in its contacts with national associations of local authorities of the other nuclear weapon states, calls upon them to also press their governments to enter into negotiations for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free world and to sharply curtail expenditures on nuclear arms; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors expresses its continuing support for Mayors for Peace, pledges to assist in recruiting new U.S. members in order to help reach the goal of 5,000 member cities by the August 6, 2011 Hiroshima anniversary, at which time Mayors for Peace will represent one billion people; and, as since 2005, supports USCM

representation at the international Mayors for Peace 2020 Vision Campaign Executive Committee and General Meetings later this year; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors agrees to take up this matter at its 80th Annual Meeting in June 2012, and that mayors shall remain engaged in this matter until our cities and citizens, and cities and citizens throughout the world, are no longer under the threat of nuclear annihilation and catastrophic climate change.

SUPPORTING ENHANCED U.S. MAYORS-INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

WHEREAS, the Obama Administration seeks to double American exports and promote international export financing; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. State Department seeks to strengthen relationships between mayors and the State Department through the creation of the Office of Global Intergovernmental Affairs; and

WHEREAS, the Obama Administration is increasing assistance to small- and medium-sized businesses to encourage new international trade, seeks to promote increased public-private partnerships and hope to increase city-to-city partnerships for economic development; and

WHEREAS, mayors and cities across the nation are building on their historical Sister City ties in order to promote international trade and investment,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors seeks to strengthen cooperation between cities and the State Department to strengthen our nation's international ties, increase U.S. exports abroad, and grow foreign investment in U.S. cities.

JOBS, EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE COMMITTEE

URBAN MANUFACTURING

WHEREAS, manufacturing plays a central role in the U.S. economy, with 300,000 firms employing 11.7 million people and supporting an additional 7 million related jobs; generating \$1.64 trillion in goods; and accounting for the majority of U.S. exports; and

WHEREAS, manufacturing jobs serve as a gateway to the middle class, paying significantly higher wages than the retail and personal-service businesses – 19.3 percent over the national private sector average – in both large and small cities and metropolitan areas; and

WHEREAS, manufacturing firms are a major driver of national innovation capacity, accounting for 70 percent of industry-funded research and development; and

WHEREAS, manufacturing brings revenues into the city and metropolitan economy from external areas, states, and countries, also supporting job creation in other parts of the local economy; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. lost nearly a third of its manufacturing jobs over the past the decade; and

WHEREAS, the pre-recession U.S. growth model driven by highly-leveraged domestic consumption cannot sustain recovery, and the next economy must refocus on production, exports, innovation, and opportunity at all skill levels; and

WHEREAS, unlike when large companies dominated U.S. production, today’s manufacturing sector is increasingly located in cities, comprised of decentralized networks of small, specialized firms, with nearly 16 percent of all manufacturers employing fewer than 20 people; and

WHEREAS, research shows that manufacturers in urban areas are more productive, pay higher median wages, and generate synergies; and

WHEREAS, despite bipartisan interest, the Administration’s “Framework for Revitalizing American Manufacturing,” and various legislative proposals, there remains a multitude of unconnected federal programs and no comprehensive national strategy for reviving and sustaining a strong manufacturing sector,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges the Obama Administration and the U.S. Congress to establish and pursue a clear manufacturing strategy that better incorporates the role and value of manufacturing in broader urban and economic development policies and programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that federal place-based planning and infrastructure programs, such as the Partnership for Sustainable Communities and Economic Development Administration regional cluster initiatives, should explicitly consider alignment of physical

development with economic development objectives in support of the manufacturing sector, including goods movement infrastructure and urban industrial parks as transit-oriented development; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the federal government should evaluate existing access to capital programs for constraints on urban manufacturing support, such as in Small Business Administration loan program criteria related to firm size, sectors, and property ownership; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the federal government should seek to reallocate existing resources in order to expand or fill gaps in manufacturing program support services, such as better linkages with engineering research on manufacturing methods, and work across groups of assemblers and suppliers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the federal government should assess changes to the tax code that enable real estate development to address the needs of smaller urban manufacturers, such as allowing use of Industrial Revenue Bonds for development of multi-tenanted rental industrial buildings; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports promotion of workforce policies and programs that better enable training in manufacturing-related skills and address identified barriers to small manufacturer growth, such as flexibility to train incumbent workers as proposed in the Strengthening Employment Clusters to Organize Regional Success Act.

SUPPORT PRESIDENT OBAMA’S PROPOSAL TO PROMOTE JOBS AND INVESTMENT THROUGH THE CREATION OF GROWTH ZONES

WHEREAS, President Obama proposes to rejuvenate distressed communities through a new initiative to identify and support Growth Zones across the country; and

WHEREAS, economic growth occurs in a metropolitan or regional context and, when possible, federal initiatives should acknowledge regional assets and patterns as they provide incentives and tools to enhance such growth;

WHEREAS, the President proposes to create a national competition for Growth Zones, a Race to the Top-style initiative for regions and communities that face high unemployment rates and that identify new opportunities for economic growth; and

WHEREAS, Growth Zones are designed to build upon the legacy of Empowerment Zones, Enterprise Communities, and Renewal Communities, as well as initiatives begun or strengthened during the Obama Administration, and improve these programs’ ability to provide support to distressed communities; and

WHEREAS, Growth Zones will stimulate job creation and investments through employment credits and investment incentives to businesses; and

WHEREAS, Growth Zones will support communities in translating economic strategies into economic realities providing planning and seed capital grants; and

WHEREAS, Growth Zones will receive federal program flexibility to allow for more coordinated and effective use of federal funding;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the United States Conference of Mayors supports the President’s proposal to create a Growth Zones program.

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE REAUTHORIZATION & FUNDING OF THE WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACT

WHEREAS, the policy of investing in employment, training and career development is important to the national economy and the USCM; and

WHEREAS, while the national economy is beginning to expand, the national unemployment rate is alarmingly high especially in highly dense urban areas; and

WHEREAS, over 8 million people were served nationally by the public workforce system funded by WIA Title 1 - a 234 percent increase in participation rates in just two years; and

WHEREAS, over 4.3 million WIA participants found jobs through the public workforce system; and

WHEREAS, the federal budget for FY 10 reduced available funding for an array of national workforce programs targeting dislocated workers, low-income adults, veterans, disconnected young adults and other highly labor market vulnerable groups; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Labor has been extremely supportive of operating and evaluating Adult and Dislocated Workers programs; Youth Employment, Job Corps, and YouthBuild programs; and

WHEREAS, the investment of federal funds into adult and youth training, employment and career development has a significant positive impact on the local and national economy, tax-base and competitiveness,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges the Congress to reauthorize the Workforce Investment Act this year and that it include:

improved regional and private-sector coordination, and expansion of outreach to immigrants;

- incentives for public-private partnerships in workforce development;
- additional training and apprenticeship programs which prepare works for jobs in the building trades and in high-growth industries;
- adequate funding for programs which have demonstrated success in developing a competitive workforce such as summer youth employment, adult education/G.E.D. literacy, Pell grants, vocational education and incumbent worker programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on business leaders to:

- invest in workforce education and career exploration counseling for high school students;
- encourage employees to participate in workforce development programs available in high schools;
- work with education and local leaders to develop appropriate curriculum that is responsive to workforce trends;

- collaborate with state education and workforce leaders to identify high-growth job trends.

SUPPORT OF SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

WHEREAS, Summer Youth employment is an important policy goal for the U.S. Conference of Mayors; and

WHEREAS, employment for young adults ages 16 -24 nationally is at an all-time low; and

WHEREAS, unemployment rates for young adults in major cities and rural areas range upwards of 40 percent; and

WHEREAS, national studies have demonstrated that youth employment has positive impacts on high school graduation rates, college-going rates, and future earnings; and

WHEREAS, the federal government through the American Revitalization and Recovery Act (ARRA) Workforce Investment Act (WIA) funds made \$1 billion available nationally to provide Summer Youth employment and year round services in FY 2009 and FY 2010; and

WHEREAS, the national workforce investment boards and their service providers served over 600,000 young people with summer and year round employment opportunities, exceeding their goal of 350,000; and

WHEREAS, FY 11 Federal Continuing Resolution did not contain any funds for Summer Youth Funds, and FY 12 proposed House budget does not contain any Summer Youth funds,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to restore its long term commitment to a strong Summer Jobs program, either by providing funding for year round youth activities and ensuring that Summer Jobs are part of any WIA reauthorization or by establishing separate ongoing funding for a Summer Jobs program.

**IN SUPPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR'S EFFORTS AROUND THE 2011
SUMMER YOUTH JOBS PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, The United States Conference of Mayors has strong policy supporting Summer Youth employment programs over the last ten years setting down firm direction for the Conference at the 68th Annual Meeting in Seattle in 2000; and

WHEREAS, the labor market for the nation's teens has deteriorated considerably over the past several years, and the overall teen employment rate for 2004 to 2006 was the lowest in the past 60 years; and

WHEREAS, in 2007, the Conference reiterated its commitment to Summer Youth programs in the face of a worsening employment setting for teens and young adults; and

WHEREAS, in 2009, the Conference supported the creation of an enhanced Summer Jobs initiative for teen workers promoting career exploration, internships, and additional programmatic opportunities in financial literacy, work readiness, post-secondary education, as well as health awareness; and

WHEREAS, the Conference has continuously and most recently in 2010 called for WIA programs to be funded at 2000 levels adjusted for inflation; and

WHEREAS, the labor market for the nation's teens continues to deteriorate considerably since 2000, when 45 percent of U.S. teens had summer jobs, to the historic low of only 32.7% in the summer of 2008; and

WHEREAS, in 2010 the largest segment of the nation's labor force will be teens and young adults; and

WHEREAS, in 2009 the Conference recommended a youth development appropriations level of \$3.84 billion; and

WHEREAS, the Summer Youth Employment Program was give \$0 funding for the summer of 2011; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Labor remained committed to keeping a Summer Youth Employment Program regardless of funding challenges through a volunteer outreach campaign; and

WHEREAS, DOL now has over 25 entities providing over 50,000 jobs to America's youth for the summer of 2011 with a goal of 100,000 jobs,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors congratulates the Department of Labor for its inspiring commitment to a program considered a critical priority by the Conference; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors thank the Department of Labor for partnering with and making cities such a valuable part of the this success; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that member cities of the Conference do all they can to aid DOL in reaching and exceeding their goal of 100,000 summer jobs for 2011.

SUPPORT FOR ADULT EDUCATION

WHEREAS, adult education provides educational opportunities and services to equip adults with the knowledge and skills necessary to participate effectively as citizens, workers, parents, and family and community members; and

WHEREAS, adult instructional programs ensure that adults have the education and skills required in a competitive economy for a better quality of life; and

WHEREAS, adult students are served by school districts, community colleges, community or faith-based organizations, volunteer literacy organizations, public or private nonprofit agencies, public libraries, correctional facilities, and state agencies; and

WHEREAS, nearly 15 million Americans are out of work, another 9 million are under-employed, and the national jobless rate remains stubbornly high at around 9%, yet there are still about 3 million job openings across the country; and

WHEREAS, this requires communities to, not only focus on adding jobs to the market through the expansion of the private sector, but also address the “skills gap” by aggressively pursuing the training and education of our unemployed adult population; and

WHEREAS, nearly 90 million adults face at least one major barrier to success in the labor market including the lack of a high school diploma, no postsecondary degree or training, and an inability to speak, read, and write English well and also lack incentives, financial aid and other support services,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors ask that the President and Congress maintain appropriations for adult education and training programs and ensure that the identification and implementation of evidence-based and best practices in adult education is commensurate with that for K-12 education.

U.S. CONFERENCE OF MAYORS PRIORITIES FOR REAUTHORIZATION OF THE ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION ACT

WHEREAS, in many U.S. cities, fewer than two-thirds of the ninth graders go on to earn a high school diploma, and less than quarter ultimately earn a bachelor's degree; and

WHEREAS, on recent international tests, American 15-year olds scored 24th out of 29 developed nations in math and 17th in science; and

WHEREAS, a generation the U.S. ranked first in the world in the rate of college completion for 25- to 34-year olds, but the nation is falling behind and now ranks 10th; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors has played a longstanding national leadership role in improving the quality of education, improving student academic excellence, and closing the achievement gap, and mayors throughout the nation are leading focused, ambitious, and transformative efforts in this regard; and

WHEREAS, in 2009, the Conference endorsed the President's comprehensive plan for public education, with a focus on (1) early childhood education, (2) reform, innovation, and investment in elementary and secondary education, and (3) restoring America's leadership in higher education; and

WHEREAS, there is a pressing need to reform No Child Left Behind, the most recent version of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act; and

WHEREAS, the President released his Blueprint for Reform of the Act in March 2010, emphasizing three major goals for reauthorization: (1) raise standards, (2) reward excellence and student academic growth, and (3) increase local control and flexibility while maintaining focus on equity and closing achievement gaps; and

WHEREAS, the Conference unanimously endorsed the President's Blueprint for Reform of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act in June 2010;

WHEREAS, Secretary of Education Duncan has worked closely with the Conference and individual mayors in diverse cities across the nation to promote a joint strategy for advancing student success and closing the achievement gap,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls upon the Congress to reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act during this session and reaffirms its support for the President's Blueprint for Reform; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports the following ESEA reauthorization policy priorities:

- Setting a national goal that every student should graduate from high school ready for college and career, regardless of income, race, ethnic or language background, or disability status.
- Using a new generation of assessments aligned with higher standards, capturing higher-order skills and deeper learning, to provide more accurate measures of student growth, align secondary and postsecondary education, hold districts and states accountable for college and career readiness, and better inform classroom instruction.
- Ensuring a more complete, well-rounded education for students to contribute in our democracy and thrive in a global economy, from literacy, mathematics, science, and technology to history, civics, foreign languages, the arts, and other subjects, and designing assessments and accountability standards which promote linked curricula integrating a variety of academic subjects.
- Supporting efforts to recruit, place, reward, retain, and promote effective teachers and principals, to remove barriers to effective teacher assignment and retention like last-in-first-out seniority rules.
- Enhancing the profession of teaching by recognizing, encouraging, and rewarding excellence, including more robust and systemic teacher evaluation based in part on student outcomes.
- Improving access to effective teachers and principals for students in high-poverty, high-minority urban schools.
- Allowing greater innovation by local schools, with thinner employment contracts, greater flexibility, and meaningful accountability for results.
- Investing in more effective pathways and practices for preparing, placing, and supporting beginning teachers and principals, especially in high need schools.
- Taking steps to ensure equity, including comparability in resources between high- and low-poverty schools.
- Continuing the incentives for systemic reforms first promulgated in Race to the Top.
- Evolving the Race to the Top approach to a city and district level rather than states to enable innovative communities to take on bold, comprehensive reforms even in the absence of effective state initiatives, and building in direct and deep mayoral involvement in any such district-level Race to the Top program.
- Supporting the expansion of high-performing public charter schools and other autonomous or mayorally-chartered public schools.

- Increasing access to a challenging high school curriculum, including college-level, dual-credit, and other accelerated courses.
- Expanding linked learning approaches which include a rigorous academic curricula aligned with entrance requirements for public institutions of higher education in the State; a career and technical education component organized around themes in high pay, high growth, or high skill industry or industry sector and aligned with state academic and technical standards; high quality work based learning components that are aligned with state academic standards (curriculum); and supplemental services.
- Streamlining funding streams to promote student success and innovation, and to provide greater flexibility to successful local schools.
- Protecting and expanding afterschool and extended school-day programs like the 21st Century Community Learning Centers, and requiring direct and deep mayoral involvement.
- Promoting schools as centers of their communities and investing in models that keep students safe, supported, and healthy both in and out of school.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the USCM calls upon the Secretary of Education to exercise his waiver authority within ESEA in a manner which advances these priorities.

U.S. CONFERENCE OF MAYORS PRIORITIES FOR BASING INSTRUCTIONAL PERSONNEL DECISIONS ON PERFORMANCE, NOT SENIORITY

WHEREAS, in many U.S. cities, fewer than two-thirds of the ninth graders go on to earn a high school diploma, and less than a quarter ultimately earn a bachelor's degree; and

WHEREAS, on recent international tests, American 15-year olds scored 24th out of 29 developed nations in math and 17th in science; and

WHEREAS, a generation ago the U.S. ranked first in the world in the rate of college completion for 25- to 34-year olds, but the nation is falling behind and now ranks 10th; and

WHEREAS, the overwhelming body of research now demonstrates that the single most important school based factor for a child's academic success is the effectiveness of their teacher; and

WHEREAS, research shows that ineffective teacher generates only half the learning of an effective teacher. Conversely, a highly effective teacher generates 50 percent more learning than an average teacher and as a result, children learn three times more in a highly effective teacher's classroom than in an ineffective teacher's classroom; and

WHEREAS, our schools and students are losing some our best and most promising teachers to seniority-based layoffs, especially as states and cities have to make difficult budget cuts. Recent studies show that more than 80% of seniority-based layoffs would result in better teachers leaving classrooms and worse teachers staying; and

WHEREAS, high-income areas generally have more stable staff and populations and therefore are less impacted by budget cuts. As a result, seniority based layoffs disproportionately negatively impact the highest need, highest poverty schools since these schools have larger numbers of new teachers; and

WHEREAS, methods do exist that allow fair and transparent evaluations of a teacher's effectiveness based in part on a student's academic growth; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors has played a longstanding national leadership role in improving the quality of education, improving student academic excellence, and closing the achievement gap,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports the following performance based personnel policy priorities.

- Supporting educational staffing practices that value teachers as professionals by recognizing high performers, providing meaningful professional development and supports, placing effective school instructional leaders, creating quality learning conditions for students, and exiting from the system those who are not serving students well.

- Requiring meaningful principal evaluations that are developed with input from principals, use multiple measures, and are grounded in school-wide student achievement growth data.
- Requiring meaningful teacher evaluations that are developed with input from teachers, use multiple measures, rely on observations of teachers' professional practice conducted by fully trained individuals, and are grounded in student achievement growth data.
- Incenting local schools and districts to implement policies grounded in teacher effectiveness and to eliminate last in, first out or seniority based layoffs as the primary criterion for layoffs in times of economic hardship, school consolidation, or reorganization. Seniority may only serve as a tie-breaker between equally evaluated teachers.
- Setting a goal to end personnel practices in PK-12 education based solely on seniority and replace those with ones focused on teacher effectiveness.

SUPPORTING AND URGING THE PASSAGE OF THE DEVELOPMENT RELIEF AND EDUCATION FOR ALIEN MINORS (DREAM) ACT

WHEREAS, the Development Relief and Education for Alien Minors (Dream) Act was first introduced in the Senate in 2001, and has failed on numerous occasions, and will be re-introduced in 2011; and

WHEREAS, the Dream Act provides immigration relief to high school students by allowing them to become permanent residents if they came to the United States as children (under the age of 16), are long-term United States residents (five years or more), have good moral character and attend an institution of higher learning or enlist in the military for at least two years; and

WHEREAS, children who have been brought to the United States illegally should not be punished for the alleged transgressions of their parents/guardians and deserve to be judged on their own character and merit regardless of their country of birth or immigrant status; and

WHEREAS, the Dream Act would provide young people with an incentive to move towards permanent residency, while pursuing further education or serving in the United States Armed Services; and

WHEREAS, approximately 50,000 to 70,000 undocumented students graduate from United States high schools each year without legal status, making it difficult for them to attend college, secure employment or join the military; and

WHEREAS, there is no benefit in the creation of an underclass through the denial of higher education or employment that would prevent individuals from competing in the global economy; and

WHEREAS, there may be numerous families residing in cities in this country whose children would benefit from the passage of the Dream Act; and

WHEREAS, the Dream Act is a practical, fair solution that upholds values of fair opportunity and strong work ethics; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors supports the passage of the Dream Act and encourages members of the United States Congress to support it,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors supports allowing undocumented alien children to become permanent residents after attending two years of college or joining the military if they came to the United States before the age of 16, have maintained continuous residence for five years, graduated from high school or obtained a general education diploma, and have good moral character; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on the United States Congress to pass the Dream Act expeditiously.

SUPPORT FOR YOUTHBUILD

WHEREAS, there are 2.4 million young low-income adults in the United States between the ages of 16 and 24 who have left high school without a diploma or who are unemployed and another 300,000 behind bars; and

WHEREAS, in YouthBuild programs, unemployed and undereducated young people ages 16-24 work toward their GED or high school diploma while learning job skills by building affordable housing for homeless and low-income people; and

WHEREAS, strong emphasis is placed on leadership development, community service, and the creation of a positive mini-community of adults and youth committed to success; and

WHEREAS, in YouthBuild programs the most disadvantaged youth are brought into the productive workforce and prepared for post-secondary education; and

WHEREAS, in 2010 there were more than 273 YouthBuild programs in 45 states, Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands, engaging approximately 10,000 young adults; and

WHEREAS, in 2010 93 percent of YouthBuild students entered the program without their GED or diploma, 40 percent had been adjudicated, and 27 percent received public assistance prior to joining YouthBuild and, in spite of these overwhelming odds, 78 percent completed the program and 64 percent of graduates went on to college or jobs averaging \$9.20/hour; and

WHEREAS, YouthBuild is a public-private partnership in which each YouthBuild program secures its own funding, generally a mix of government (federal, state, and local) and private support and it is NOT an earmark; and

WHEREAS, federal support for YouthBuild was first authorized under the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in 1992 and reauthorized within the Workforce Investment Act under the U.S. Department of Labor by the YouthBuild Transfer Act (Public Law 109-281) in September 2006, when it passed by unanimous consent in both Houses of Congress and was signed into law by President George W. Bush; and

WHEREAS, since 1993 more than 100,000 YouthBuild students have produced over 20,000 units of low-income housing; and

WHEREAS, independent research has shown a minimum return on investment of \$7.80 for every dollar spent on every YouthBuild student; and

WHEREAS, the nation's ability to reconnect unemployed and undereducated young adults is critical to workforce development, crime prevention, and economic development; and,

WHEREAS, recent cuts to the YouthBuild Program have left the Department of Labor unable to fund 121 of the 226 current YouthBuild grantees and as a result, the number of young people on the waiting list in 2010 (18,600) will increase dramatically,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors affirms its support for YouthBuild as a critically important program to the federal-local partnership; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors opposes additional cuts to YouthBuild and supports restoration to its FY10 level of \$102.5 million.

ARTS EDUCATION

WHEREAS, the No Child Left Behind Act of 2002 recognizes the arts as a core academic subject, allowing federal K-12 funds to support arts education; and

WHEREAS, such federal funds include Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as authorized through the No Child Left Behind Act, as well as funds for teacher training and professional development, technology, after-school and summer programs, and much more; and

WHEREAS, Congress affirmed the importance of arts education by establishing a dedicated arts education program at the U.S. Department of Education to complement existing programs of the National Endowment for the Arts; and

WHEREAS, a child's education is not complete unless it includes the arts; and

WHEREAS, a compendium of arts education research entitled Critical Links, released by the Arts Education Partnership, suggest the following:

- The arts help close the achievement gap for students from economically disadvantaged circumstances, as evidenced by improved test scores
- The arts improve academic skills essential for reading and language development
- The arts build strong mathematical skills
- The arts advance the motivation to learn
- The arts promote positive social development; and

WHEREAS, inner-city and rural children have not had the same opportunities as children living in wealthier districts to learn in, through, and about the arts; and

WHEREAS, the President's Committee on the Arts and on the Humanities report entitled *Reinvesting in Arts Education: Winning America's Future Through Creative Schools* offers key recommendations to strengthen existing arts education programs, including:

- Building robust collaborations that encourages different approaches to arts education
- Developing the field of arts integration
- Expanding in-school opportunities for teaching artists
- Utilizing federal and state policies to reinforce the place of arts in K-12 education
- Widening the focus of evidence gathering about arts education; and

WHEREAS, performance results from the federal Arts In Education program demonstrate the ability of arts integration to boost achievement results among low-income and minority students; and

WHEREAS, local arts agencies, artists, and arts institutions and organizations stand ready and willing to work with school districts and teachers to improve arts education,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that members of The United States Conference of Mayors urge local school districts and administrators to maximize the use of federal education

funds available through the above-named programs, as well as state funds where permissible, to deliver high-quality arts instruction and to integrate the arts with other core subjects; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to incorporate the recommendations of President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities into the reauthorization of the Elementary & Secondary Education Act; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to appropriate a minimum of \$40 million for the Arts in Education program, which will support the further development and dissemination of effective models for improving the quantity and quality of arts education.

SUPPORT OF DOLLARWISE MAYORS FOR FINANCIAL LITERACY CAMPAIGN

WHEREAS, The United States Conference of Mayors' Council for the New American City established the DollarWi\$e Campaign to invite the nation's mayors to make their citizens' financial literacy a top priority; and

WHEREAS, According to the National Financial Capability Survey, almost half of Americans reported having trouble keeping up with monthly expenses and bills, while 14 percent stated it is very difficult to do so and 35 percent finding it somewhat difficult; and

WHEREAS, While half of young credit card holders paid off the balances on their credit cards in full each month, 41% percent paid only the minimum amount due; young credit card users were also the most likely to be charged fees for exceeding their credit limit; and

WHEREAS, Programs such as the DollarWi\$e Summer Youth Campaign, where many youth are employed, earning a paycheck, and making financial decisions for the first time in their lives, provide an ideal teachable moment to offer financial education to participating youth;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the United States Conference of Mayors reiterates its position that helping every American become financially literate should be a priority for federal, state, and local governments;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that every mayor and city in the United States is invited and encouraged to join the Mayors' National DollarWi\$e Campaign and make a commitment to increasing their citizens' financial literacy;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all cities with a summer youth employment program are invited to participate in the DollarWi\$e Summer Youth Campaign and incorporate financial education into these programs;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we encourage cities to work with local chapters of financial planners to organize Financial Planning Days, or include financial education into other opportunities and venues, such as financial education forums, financial literacy fairs, and one-on-one financial counseling.

METRO ECONOMIES POLICY COMMITTEE

URBAN MANUFACTURING

WHEREAS, manufacturing plays a central role in the U.S. economy, with 300,000 firms employing 11.7 million people and supporting an additional 7 million related jobs; generating \$1.64 trillion in goods; and accounting for the majority of U.S. exports; and

WHEREAS, manufacturing jobs serve as a gateway to the middle class, paying significantly higher wages than the retail and personal-service businesses – 19.3 percent over the national private sector average – in both large and small cities and metropolitan areas; and

WHEREAS, manufacturing firms are a major driver of national innovation capacity, accounting for 70 percent of industry-funded research and development; and

WHEREAS, manufacturing brings revenues into the city and metropolitan economy from external areas, states, and countries, also supporting job creation in other parts of the local economy; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. lost nearly a third of its manufacturing jobs over the past the decade; and

WHEREAS, the pre-recession U.S. growth model driven by highly-leveraged domestic consumption cannot sustain recovery, and the next economy must refocus on production, exports, innovation, and opportunity at all skill levels; and

WHEREAS, unlike when large companies dominated U.S. production, today's manufacturing sector is increasingly located in cities, comprised of decentralized networks of small, specialized firms, with nearly 16 percent of all manufacturers employing fewer than 20 people; and

WHEREAS, research shows that manufacturers in urban areas are more productive, pay higher median wages, and generate synergies; and

WHEREAS, despite bipartisan interest, the Administration's "Framework for Revitalizing American Manufacturing," and various legislative proposals, there remains a multitude of unconnected federal programs and no comprehensive national strategy for reviving and sustaining a strong manufacturing sector.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the United States Conference of Mayors urges the Obama Administration and the U.S. Congress to establish and pursue a clear manufacturing strategy that better incorporates the role and value of manufacturing in broader urban and economic development policies and programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that federal place-based planning and infrastructure programs, such as the Partnership for Sustainable Communities and Economic Development Administration regional cluster initiatives, should explicitly consider alignment of physical

development with economic development objectives in support of the manufacturing sector, including goods movement infrastructure and urban industrial parks as transit-oriented development; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the federal government should evaluate existing access to capital programs for constraints on urban manufacturing support, such as in Small Business Administration loan program criteria related to firm size, sectors, and property ownership; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the federal government should seek to reallocate existing resources in order to expand or fill gaps in manufacturing program support services, such as better linkages with engineering research on manufacturing methods, and work across groups of assemblers and suppliers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the federal government should assess changes to the tax code that enable real estate development to address the needs of smaller urban manufacturers, such as allowing use of Industrial Revenue Bonds for development of multi-tenanted rental industrial buildings; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States Conference of Mayors supports promotion of workforce policies and programs that better enable training in manufacturing-related skills and address identified barriers to small manufacturer growth, such as flexibility to train incumbent workers as proposed in the Strengthening Employment Clusters to Organize Regional Success Act.

**SUPPORT FOR PRESIDENT OBAMA’S “A STRATEGY FOR AMERICAN
INNOVATION: ENSURING OUR ECONOMIC GROWTH AND PROSPERITY”**

WHEREAS, the Obama Administration has issued an innovation strategy that will propel American economic growth and competitiveness; and

WHEREAS, American economic leadership builds on a history of state and local investments in innovation, infrastructure, and skills, which have made American workers the most productive among the major economies of the world today; and

WHEREAS, America’s entrepreneurs and industrial research laboratories have driven world-changing industrial advances, from early automobiles to aerospace, from light bulbs to transistors, from computers to the Internet, and the Obama Administration’s innovation strategy and Startup America initiative leverage the private sector as the engine of innovation; and

WHEREAS, America’s universities and federal laboratories lead the world in scientific breakthroughs that underpin commercial innovations and stand as foundations for regional clusters of high quality jobs, skilled workforces, and world-leading innovation; and

WHEREAS, national priority areas for continuing American leadership include advanced manufacturing, biotechnology, nanotechnology, clean energy, wireless broadband, and educational technologies; and

WHEREAS, as mayors working in cities across the nation, we recognize that America’s future economic success is bounded together with the future success of our local communities, and where many core public investments require local action, including improving our elementary and secondary schools, revitalizing our roads, railways, and runways, building advanced wired and wireless telecommunications networks, supporting entrepreneurs who are developing new businesses, developing new and clean energy sources, and improving health care; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the United States Conference of Mayors will help bring the vision of the Administration’s innovation strategy into action at the local level, working in each community to support local and national prosperity by emphasizing investments and improvements in education, infrastructure, and innovation while reducing barriers to entrepreneurship.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the United States Conference of Mayors urges Congress and the Administration to prioritize investments in education, infrastructure, and innovation in the Federal Budget to promote America’s economic growth and competitiveness, preparing American workers and industries for the challenges of this century and ensuring quality jobs, health, and economic opportunity across our nation.

SUPPORT OF THE NATIONAL EXPORT INITIATIVE

WHEREAS, exports are a significant economic engine to drive U.S. growth; and

WHEREAS, 95% of the world's potential customers and the most rapid growth in consumer demand are outside the United States; and

WHEREAS, U.S. exports as a percentage of Gross Domestic Product is smaller than other major trading partners, including China and Germany; and

WHEREAS, the pre-recession U.S. growth model driven by highly-leveraged domestic consumption cannot sustain recovery; and

WHEREAS, U.S. exports currently support more than 11 million jobs nationwide; and

WHEREAS, export-intensive industries pay higher wages than domestic-oriented industries, and jobs supported by the export of goods and services pay at least 15% more than the average non-export job; and

WHEREAS, to refocus and reaffirm U.S. global trade competitiveness, the National Export Initiative established a goal of doubling exports within five years, to \$3.14 trillion by 2015; and

WHEREAS, nearly 84% of all U.S. exports and 90% of services are generated in the nation's metropolitan areas; and

WHEREAS, exports are critical to the vitality of smaller metropolitan area economies, often representing a greater share of Gross Metropolitan Product and market opportunity; and

WHEREAS, mayors are the leaders in setting regional economic development direction and key conveners for private and public sector export stakeholders.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the United States Conference of Mayors is committed to making exports a top economic development priority in their metropolitan areas; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the United States Conference of Mayors urges the Obama Administration to more fully incorporate and support mayors as leading partners in implementing the National Export Initiative; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the United States Conference of Mayors urges the federal government to reduce institutional barriers and make it easier for local agencies and metropolitan areas to access and align with federal export grants and resources, such as incorporating a metropolitan area focus into the State Trade and Export (STEP) grant program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the United States Conference of Mayors urges federal agencies to invest in helping localities create and implement Metropolitan Export Plans,

customized to the economic characteristics of each region, detailing export goals, strategies, and implementation programs and products.

OPPOSING EFFORTS TO LIMIT ONLINE TRAVEL COMPANIES' OBLIGATIONS TO COLLECT AND REMIT LOCAL HOTEL OCCUPANCY TAXES

WHEREAS, online travel companies (OTCs) such as Expedia, Priceline, Travelocity, Orbiz and Hotels.com are collecting state and local hotel occupancy taxes from consumers but only remitting a fraction of such taxes to state and local governments; and

WHEREAS, many hotels contract with OTCs in order to increase the occupancy of their hotel rooms, and provide OTCs a discounted rate for each room they book online; and

WHEREAS, OTCs charge consumers the full retail room rate when booking a room online and collect state and local hotel occupancy taxes based on the full retail room rate, and they typically charge consumers a processing fee; and

WHEREAS, OTCs collect taxes based on the full retail rate that the consumer pays for the room, but they only submit to state and local governments hotel occupancy taxes based on the discounted rate of the room and pocket the difference; and

WHEREAS, to illustrate this problem assume that an OTC contracts with a hotel to offer rooms to consumers at a rate of \$200.00 per day plus appropriate taxes and fees; and assume that the hotel agrees to provide the OTC a 20 **percent** discount for each room that it books online; this would mean that the OTC will charge consumers \$200.00 for the room and if a local government has a 5 percent hotel occupancy tax, the OTC will collect \$10.00 for a total of \$210.00 per day; and after collecting the money from consumers, the OTC submits \$160 (\$200.00 minus the 20% discount) to the hotel, send \$8.00 (5% of the discounted rate \$160.00) to the local government instead of the \$10.00 that's actually due, and pockets \$2.00, claiming it as a processing fee; and

WHEREAS, the minimum annual revenue loss that state and local governments are estimated to realize from OTCs will exceed \$1 billion and increase to \$8.5 billion if hotels, in order to avoid being left in a competitive disadvantaged, adopt the OTCs' business model of booking rooms online and pocketing a portion of local revenues; and

WHEREAS, many local governments have filed law suits and initiated other collection actions against OTCs to compel them to submit taxes to local governments based on the full retail room rate charged to the consumer, and more than 40 lawsuits are pending nationwide along with an unknown number of administrative collection efforts; and

WHEREAS, OTCs are seeking federal legislation that would limit state and local governments ability to collect taxes from OTCs by not only exempting OTCs from remitting taxes on the full retail price of the room but may also exempt the payment of any hotel occupancy tax on rooms booked by OTCs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the United States Conference of Mayors urges Congress to oppose any legislation that would grant OTCs a tax exemption that terminates existing, or bars future obligations to pay hotel taxes to state and local governments, or otherwise restrict legal actions filed by them.

RELIEF FROM FEDERAL UNFUNDED MANDATES

WHEREAS, federal legislation, rules, regulations, and guidances continue to impose enormous financial burdens on U.S. cities, which is particularly problematic in a time of great fiscal crisis for state and local governments; and

WHEREAS, the 1995 Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) was an important first step in making federal lawmakers and agencies aware of the impact of unfunded mandates on state and local governments, it has only slowed, but not stopped this imposition; and

WHEREAS, UMRA's definition of mandates is excessively narrow, does not include independent agencies, and its cost threshold unrealistically high, making it ineffective in preventing the ever rising cost of unfunded mandates; and

WHEREAS, UMRA does not adequately address the various forms that mandates take – unfunded mandates, underfunded mandates, unreasonable grant requirements, preemption of local authority, rules, regulations, court decisions, and guidances, which prevents it from accomplishing its purpose; and

WHEREAS, U.S. mayors believe that the federal government should provide adequate funding for its mandates, not force localities to sacrifice provision of services, accruing additional debt, sacrificing bond ratings, and raising local tax rates in order to comply with federal mandates; and

WHEREAS, federal mandates preempt local authority by replacing local goals with federal priorities and preventing local governments from determining the best way to meet their citizen's needs and spend their local tax dollars; and

WHEREAS, unfunded mandates erode the federalist tradition and deference to local authority that are central to the American tradition of governance, and

WHEREAS, in testimony on February 15, 2011, the Government Accountability Office stated, "Our work on federal, state, and local governments' fiscal stresses raises broader questions about the allocation of fiscal responsibilities within our federal system --The federal government partners with state and local governments to achieve national priorities through implementation of a variety of programs. The interconnectedness of intergovernmental programs requires that all levels of government remain aware of, and ready to respond to, fiscal pressures. The combined long-term fiscal challenges further complicate the process of sorting out competing demands for federal funds and other fiscal resources--Actions will be needed by all in coming years, and the challenges cannot simply be shifted from one level of government to another;" and

WHEREAS, the Government Accountability Office, in a 2004 unfunded mandates publication stated that "The long-term fiscal challenges facing the federal and state and local governments and the continued relevance of existing programs and priorities warrant a national debate to review what the government does, how it does business, and how it finances its priorities. Such a reexamination includes considering how responsibilities for financing public services are allocated and shared across the many nonfederal entities in the U.S. system."

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the federal and state governments to broaden the definition of a mandate to include recognized cost shifts that do not fall within the current strict definition and high cost threshold including rules, regulations, and guidances imposed by federal and independent agencies; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to strengthen the enforcement mechanisms in the legislative process to prevent the imposition of new unfunded mandates without a super majority vote in both the house and senate; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors calls on Congress and the Administration to strengthen the enforcement mechanisms in the agency rulemaking process to include rules, regulations, guidances, and court-ordered decisions, to prevent the imposition of new unfunded mandates without the appropriate level of scrutiny; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors encourages Congress to enhance the consultation and cooperation by federal agencies with state and local officials on the projected intergovernmental costs of a mandate; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors urges Congress to create a mechanism to identify the actual costs for state and local governments to comply with mandates after they have been imposed, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The United States Conference of Mayors urges Congress, and the Administration as well as federal and independent agencies to have a national dialogue with local and state governments to review and determine the long-term solutions and ways of financing federal priorities to include a reexamination and consideration of how responsibilities for financing public services are allocated and shared across the many nonfederal entities in the U.S. system to include a prioritization, implementation, and funding of mandates; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Congress, federal, and independent agencies cease and desist the creation and implementation of any new unfunded mandates including new rules, regulations, and guidances until local and state governments “catch up” and can meet and pay for the current set of mandates.

CALLING ON CONGRESS TO REDIRECT MILITARY SPENDING TO DOMESTIC PRIORITIES

WHEREAS, every member of the US Conference of Mayors and the Americans they represent, support our brave men and women in uniform and their families;

WHEREAS, the drawdown of troops should be done in a measured way that does not destabilize the region and that can accelerate the transfer of responsibility to regional authorities;

WHEREAS, the severity of the ongoing economic crisis has created budget shortfalls at all levels of government and requires us to re-examine our national spending priorities; and

WHEREAS, the people of the United States are collectively paying approximately \$126 billion dollars per year to wage war in Iraq and Afghanistan; and

WHEREAS, 6,024 members of the US armed forces have died in these wars; and at least 120,000 civilians have been killed in Iraq and Afghanistan since the coalition attacks began.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the United States Conference of Mayors supports efforts to speed up the ending of these wars; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the United States Conference of Mayors calls on the President and U.S. Congress to end the wars as soon as strategically possible and bring these war dollars home to meet vital human needs, promote job creation, rebuild our infrastructure, aid municipal and state governments, and develop a new economy based upon renewable, sustainable energy and reduce the federal debt.

SUPPORT OF DOLLARWISE MAYORS FOR FINANCIAL LITERACY CAMPAIGN

WHEREAS, The United States Conference of Mayors' Council for the New American City established the DollarWi\$e Campaign to invite the nation's mayors to make their citizens' financial literacy a top priority; and

WHEREAS, According to the National Financial Capability Survey, almost half of Americans reported having trouble keeping up with monthly expenses and bills, while 14 percent stated it is very difficult to do so and 35 percent finding it somewhat difficult; and

WHEREAS, While half of young credit card holders paid off the balances on their credit cards in full each month, 41% percent paid only the minimum amount due; young credit card users were also the most likely to be charged fees for exceeding their credit limit; and

WHEREAS, Programs such as the DollarWi\$e Summer Youth Campaign, where many youth are employed, earning a paycheck, and making financial decisions for the first time in their lives, provide an ideal teachable moment to offer financial education to participating youth;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the United States Conference of Mayors reiterates its position that helping every American become financially literate should be a priority for federal, state, and local governments;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that every mayor and city in the United States is invited and encouraged to join the Mayors' National DollarWi\$e Campaign and make a commitment to increasing their citizens' financial literacy;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all cities with a summer youth employment program are invited to participate in the DollarWi\$e Summer Youth Campaign and incorporate financial education into these programs;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we encourage cities to work with local chapters of financial planners to organize Financial Planning Days, or include financial education into other opportunities and venues, such as financial education forums, financial literacy fairs, and one-on-one financial counseling.

IN SUPPORT OF THE BETTER BUILDING INITIATIVE

WHEREAS, commercial buildings consume approximately 20 percent of all energy in the U.S. economy; and

WHEREAS, with gasoline prices over \$4.00 a gallon, energy is a precious resource that should not be squandered; and

WHEREAS, Mayors are leaders of their regional economy and can have a transformative effect on energy and job creation; and

WHEREAS, President Obama has laid out the Better Building Initiative, a goal to improve building efficiency by 20 percent within 10 years; and

WHEREAS, improving energy efficiency in buildings can create jobs, save energy costs to businesses, and clean the environment; and

WHEREAS, achieving the Better Building Initiative goal can reduce businesses owners' energy expenses by \$40 billion per year; and

WHEREAS, job creation is especially vital in metro economies, where unemployment in the construction industry hovers around 22.5%; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the United States Conference of Mayors urges the Obama Administration to partner with mayors and cities to make the Better Building Initiative a success and should connect cities to its Better Building Challenge, to continue to support the Energy Star Program and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that as leaders of their economy, the United States Conference of Mayors support mayors to convene national and regional financial institutions to partner with cities to finance energy efficiency projects in buildings; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States Conference of Mayors support Congressional passage of "Race to Green", a competitive grant program to incentivize states and local governments to streamline standards and codes related to energy efficiency; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States Conference of Mayors urge Congress to support the Obama Administration's proposal to redesign the current tax deduction for commercial building upgrades to a tax credit that will incentivize building owners to retrofit their properties.

GOVERNMENT SPONSORED ENTITIES (GSEs)

WHEREAS, the federal government has an important role to play in the future of multifamily housing lending; and

WHEREAS, Congress is debating options for winding down the GSEs and guarantees for secondary markets; and

WHEREAS, there is an important distinction between the single-family and multifamily markets; and

WHEREAS, the GSEs' multifamily portfolio has performed well, especially compared to single family investments; and

WHEREAS, since 1996, the GSEs have provided over \$535 billion in multifamily mortgage debt. As other sources have withdrawn from the market, the GSEs currently provide approximately ninety percent (90%) of the capital to the multifamily housing industry; and

WHEREAS, the GSEs are the only active participant in securitizing multi-family loans for long-term (10+ years) financing; and

WHEREAS, prior to the conservatorship, the GSEs were the largest institutional purchaser of Low-Income Housing Tax Credits and Tax-Exempt Bonds; and

WHEREAS, approximately ninety percent (90%) of the multi-family lending executed by the GSEs directly benefits residents earning no more than 100% of area median income (AMI); and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the GSEs' role as providers of liquidity, permanent financing partner and institutional purchaser of Low Income Housing Tax Credits and Tax Exempt Bonds should not be overlooked; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that any reform of housing finance system should replicate these roles in a manner favorable to affordable housing development.

**OPPOSE LEGISLATION THAT WOULD PREEMPT LOCAL REVENUE RAISING
AUTHORITY WITH RESPECT TO TAXATION OF WIRELESS
TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES**

WHEREAS, the national economic downturn and mortgage foreclosure crisis has created an enormous loss of local government revenue through decreased property tax receipt levels; and

WHEREAS, local governments will continue to face severe budget shortfalls as a result of the national mortgage foreclosure crisis through 2012 at an estimated cumulative level of \$56 to \$83 billion; and

WHEREAS, these continued shortfalls will persist in forcing local governments to reduce staff levels and critical local services, including law enforcement and emergency response, as well as delay much-needed infrastructure projects capable of revitalizing local and regional economies; and

WHEREAS, local governments require autonomy to tailor tax policies to respond to changing economic circumstances, account for available sources of revenue, meet the needs of residents and react to industry changes that place fluctuating demands on public infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, local officials organizing local tax policies are held accountable for these policies through local elections; and

WHEREAS, House and Senate legislation has been reintroduced in the 112th Congress which would strip local governments of the authority to modify taxes on wireless telecommunications services and the providers of such services regardless of the need for flexibility in local taxing authority on telecommunications services to adapt to innovation in telecommunications delivery platforms, or the impact of telecommunications services and the delivery of these services on public infrastructure, local communities and their residents; and

WHEREAS, this legislation would set a dangerous precedent in granting favoritism to one segment of an extremely profitable and rapidly expanding industry at the expense of local governments, compromise the rules of federalism outlined in the 10th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, and in doing so establish a model for other industries to similarly seek federal preemptive relief from state and local taxes; and

WHEREAS, the current tax treatment of wireless services by federal, state and local authorities has not hindered product innovation, service growth or industry profitability. According to the FCC, wireless industry subscribership has grown over 158% since 2000 and wireless industry revenue has grown over 124% over that same period; and

WHEREAS, government at all levels, including the federal government, has imposed fees on phone services, regardless of the technology employed by the service. Among these fees are 911 fees and universal service commitment. These fees have resulted in consumers having access to public safety services on an expedited basis, and has ensured that service is available to all; and

WHEREAS, an increasing number of cell phone subscribers are purchasing services on a prepaid basis, requiring state and local governments to amend laws to ensure that these prepaid services are not exempt from payment of the fees and taxes currently collected on wireless services, laws that could be barred by enactment of a wireless services tax moratorium;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that as Congress considers legislation, The United States Conference of Mayors urges telecommunications providers to work with cities to negotiate mutually acceptable provisions in the legislation.

2011 BROADBAND COMMUNICATIONS POLICY AND OPPOSITION TO FCC NOI

WHEREAS, mayors support the universal availability of affordable wire line and wireless broadband services and

WHEREAS, mayors, as the CEOs of local governments, which are themselves significant and sophisticated users of broadband communications technology and eagerly await choice of broadband providers, faster speeds and lower prices; and

WHEREAS, mayors recognize the increasing and vital role broadband wire line and wireless communications plays in both homeland and hometown security; and

WHEREAS, the Conference of Mayors' broadband communications advocacy efforts with Congress, the Federal Communications Commission and the Administration have 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
- Federal policy must continue to distinguish a tax from a fee for benefit rendered, such as use of the rights-of-way.

WHEREAS, the Federal Communications Commission released a Notice Of Inquiry on April 7, 2001, relating to the "Acceleration of Broadband Deployment: Expanding the Reach and Reducing the Cost of Broadband Deployment by Improving Policies Regarding Public Rights of Way and Wireless Facilities Siting, WC Docket No. 11-59"; and

WHEREAS, the NOI appears to be based on the premise that local rights-of-way regulatory and compensation issues constitute "barriers to entry" for broadband service; and

WHEREAS, the FCC has – in the past – used such NOIs to issue orders that would severely limit municipal authority through federal preemption; and

WHEREAS, despite the announcement by the FCC in the National Broadband Plan last year that it would appoint a Local Government Right-of-Way Advisory Committee, the FCC has never has. Rather, the Commission relied on an industry-dominated panel without any meaningful input from local governments before it issued the NOI; and

WHEREAS, recent research conducted the National Telecommunications and Information Agency demonstrates the highest levels of broadband deployment are found in high density areas, such as cities; and

WHEREAS, Congress in crafting the Communications Act made clear in Section 253 [47 USC Section 253 (c)] that local governments retained the right to manage their rights of way and obtain reasonable compensation for use of same; and that in Section 332 (c) (7) that local government also retained zoning authority over the siting of wireless devices and that the FCC has no jurisdiction to preempt local zoning rules or right-of-way regulations, or to set rights-of-way compensation.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the United States Conference of Mayors' advocacy efforts in response to the NOI shall advocate policies that:

- 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;
- Preserve the ability of local governments to collect rental fees for the use of public property as provided by each state's law;
- 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. For instance, wireless providers, like their competitors, should be subject to local fair business practices and local cell tower siting authority.
- Encourage competition among multiple broadband service providers;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Conference staff is directed to craft a nationally coordinated strategy that draws on the political, media, legal, public works, and planning resources of the local government community to respond to the threats outlined in the Commission's NOI.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION “NOTICE OF INQUIRY” RELATED TO PUBLIC RIGHTS-OF-WAY AND WIRELESS FACILITIES SITING

WHEREAS, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has issued a Notice of Inquiry (the “Notice of Inquiry”) regarding issues arising from the use of public rights-of-way and sites for wireless facilities in connection with the provision of broadband services; and

WHEREAS, the accelerated availability and adoption of reliable, affordable and competitive broadband services in the interest of America’s urban population; and

WHEREAS, it is equally in the public interest that the installation of privately-owned, for-profit facilities and equipment in public streets and other public rights-of-way be conditioned on appropriate protections of the interests of the public in the safety and integrity of the use of such rights-of-way; on the payment of a reasonable rental to the public by such private, for-profit users; and on appropriate assurances that the public interest will be protected and advanced in the provision of the services being delivered via the occupancy of public rights-of-way; and

WHEREAS, it is one of the long-standing and critical roles of municipal government to engage in appropriate land use planning and management in the public interest, and that municipal governments are best equipped and most familiar with the particular land use issues arising within their jurisdictions, as compared to federal or state level regulators; and

WHEREAS, the installation of wireless towers and other facilities can implicate both efforts to offer broadband services provision of which municipal governments are eager to expand to their constituents as well land use concerns that municipal governments have long-standing experience in balancing and evaluating; and

WHEREAS, Congress has deferred in a significant and far-reaching manner to the role of state and municipal governments in matters relating to the private use of public-rights-of-way and the evaluation of land use issues as they relate to the siting of wireless facilities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the United States Conference of Mayors calls upon the FCC to undertake its efforts to expand the availability and adoption of reliable, affordable and competitive broadband services in a manner which fully respects the role of municipal governments in assuring that the use of public rights-of-way to install private, profit-making facilities is undertaken in the public interest, with a reasonable rental paid to the public, and with appropriate protections for the integrity of public property;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States Conference of Mayors calls upon the FCC to assure that any actions it takes arising out of the Notice of Inquiry fully respect the legal limits that Congress has both expressly and impliedly placed on the authority of the FCC to preempt local action with respect to the use of public rights-of-way and land use management; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States Conference of Mayors calls upon the FCC to assure that the traditional role of municipal governments to assure that private occupancy

of public rights-of-way be implemented in a manner that redounds broadly to the benefit of a municipality's citizens, and not just in a limited or restricted manner; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States Conference of Mayors calls upon the FCC to assure that the billions of dollars in rental compensation revenue which municipalities receive each year on behalf of their local taxpayers in connection with communications-related private occupancy of public rights-of-way are fully protected, are in no way compromised, and remain subject to appropriate expansion as such private occupancy expands; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States Conference of Mayors calls upon the FCC to assure that the full authority and expertise of municipal governments in matters of land use and management be respected in matters of wireless facilities siting; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States Conference of Mayors calls upon the FCC to respect the intention and direction of Congress, expressed in 47 USC Section 253(d) and the legislative history associated therewith, that matters related to reasonable compensation for use of public rights of way in connection with provision of telecommunications services, and matters related to the management of public rights-of-way in connection with provision of telecommunications services, are matters within the jurisdiction of the judiciary and not the FCC.

DEVELOPING REGIONAL FOOD HUBS TO STRENGTHEN LOCAL & REGIONAL FOOD SYSTEMS

WHEREAS, cities across the United States are grappling with related crises of obesity, poverty and hunger; and

WHEREAS, diet-related diseases impose enormous public health and economic costs on cities largely due to the lack of affordable, healthy food options and overabundance of unhealthy foods in food desert neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, experts estimate that if present trends continue, midsize farms will drastically decrease over the next several years; and

WHEREAS, the public health, environmental, social, and economic consequences of our current food system demand a compelling and critical call to action; and

WHEREAS, local and regional food systems can offer many benefits including 1) improved health and well-being of communities, 2) increased access to healthy, high quality affordable food, 3) contribute to a thriving local economy including job creation, and 4) protecting and strengthening biodiversity and natural resources; and

WHEREAS, Regional Food Hubs are an emerging business model that offers aggregation and distribution services for small and midsize producers and are critical infrastructure for expanding local and regional food systems as an economic development, public health, and environmental strategy; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Agriculture supports the development of local and regional food systems to address health disparities related to limited healthy food availability, while creating new markets for regional farmers; and

WHEREAS, the USDA established a Regional Food Hub Tactical Team to examine how coordinated food hubs can play an important role in eradicating food deserts by expanding the availability and affordability of fresh, healthful and locally-produced food; and the USDA recently released the results of a nationwide analysis on regional food hubs; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors supports the USDA in their commitment to improving healthy food access in food desert neighborhoods and strengthening regional food systems through the creation of regional food hubs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Mayors to support the development of Regional Food Hubs that include the following components:

- Increased access to “good food” -- food that is healthy, affordable, fairly and sustainably grown -- for underserved communities and expanded direct-to consumer sales for farmers in food desert neighborhoods;

- Infrastructure development that enables local institutions such as schools, municipal agencies, hospitals, restaurants, corner stores, and other retail outlets to increase their local food procurement;
- Expanded markets for small and midsize local growers;
- Good job creation throughout the food chain;
- Streamlined local purchasing for customers to purchase source-verified local foods, which are grown and distributed with decreased environmental impact; and
- Increased education of residents about available nutrition assistance programs and emerging market outlets; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors and the nation's Mayors support the stated goals of Regional Food Hubs and will work in partnership with public and private leaders in advancing this effort.

TOURISM, ARTS, PARKS, ENTERTAINMENT, AND SPORTS COMMITTEE

SUPPORTING BIPARTISAN LEGISLATION TO PROTECT AMERICAN JOBS, BUSINESSES AND CONSUMERS THREATENED BY ONLINE THEFT

WHEREAS, in 2010 the United States Conference of Mayors affirmed that (1) American intellectual property, including the motion pictures, television programs, and sound recordings created by the U.S. entertainment industry are both an economic driver for cities and the U.S. economy and a cultural touchstone of our American heritage, and (2) called upon both the Obama Administration and Congress to develop workable solutions to protect audiovisual works and local jobs and revenues generated by film and television production.

WHEREAS, the entertainment industry and other intellectual property-intensive industries employ more than 19 million people and account for 60% of U.S. exports, and film and television production takes place in all 50 states, employing 2.4 million people, supported by 95,000 businesses, and fosters the building of local infrastructure and studio facilities in many cities.

WHEREAS, the jobs and revenue U.S. entertainment and other intellectual property-intensive industries generate are threatened by global online theft which, as evidenced by a 40% drop in global music sales over the past decade and a 19% drop in U.S. DVD sales over the past five years, is estimated at over \$206 billion.

WHEREAS, digital theft has become an illegal money-making business with the growth of “rogue” websites dedicated to stealing content and goods they have no role in financing or creating, and which appear to be legitimate due to access through search engines, payment with U.S. credit card companies, and supported by advertising revenue, put American consumers at risk of identity theft and others crimes; and these sites, when run by foreign profiteers, are often outside the reach of U.S. law enforcement.

WHEREAS, the online piracy encouraged by these “rogue” websites costs federal, state and local governments over \$2.6 billion in tax revenue annually and, if permitted to grow unabated, will lead to less production of entertainment and other intellectual property, which will have a direct and harmful impact on local revenues.

WHEREAS, two bi-partisan efforts are now underway in the U.S. Congress to address directly the illegal sale of stolen content and goods on the Internet; the first, the PROTECT IP Act introduced by Senator Patrick Leahy, with Senator Charles Grassley and Senator Orrin Hatch and 9 co-sponsors gives U.S. law enforcement agencies more effective means to take down rogue websites operated outside the U.S. and to remove the financial viability of such sites by restricting their access to search engines, payment processors, advertising networks, and ISPs; the second, S. 978, introduced by Senators Amy Klobuchar and John Cornyn, with Senator Christopher Coons, removes unwarranted obstacles to the prosecution of websites illegally streaming stolen content for commercial advantage or gain.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the members of the U.S. Conference of Mayors support the efforts of the entertainment industry and other IP-generating industries to combat, through a range of means, public and private, the online theft of motion pictures, television programs, sound recordings, manufactured goods, pharmaceuticals and other intellectual property;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors calls upon Congress to pass the PROTECT IP ACT and S. 978, as much needed and important legislative initiatives to increase the ability of U.S. law enforcement to go after profit-making entities who willfully and knowingly steal intellectual property, with little or no regard for the cost in dollars, jobs, U.S. creativity and ingenuity, and revenue for cities across America.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the U.S. Conference of Mayors will work together with Members of Congress and those in the entertainment industry and other IP generated industries toward the passage of this important legislation.

ARTS EDUCATION

WHEREAS, the No Child Left Behind Act of 2002 recognizes the arts as a core academic subject, allowing federal K-12 funds to support arts education; and

WHEREAS, such federal funds include Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as authorized through the No Child Left Behind Act, as well as funds for teacher training and professional development, technology, after-school and summer programs, and much more; and

WHEREAS, Congress affirmed the importance of arts education by establishing a dedicated arts education program at the U.S. Department of Education to complement existing programs of the National Endowment for the Arts; and

WHEREAS, a child's education is not complete unless it includes the arts; and

WHEREAS, a compendium of arts education research entitled Critical Links, released by the Arts Education Partnership, suggest the following:

- The arts help close the achievement gap for students from economically disadvantaged circumstances, as evidenced by improved test scores
- The arts improve academic skills essential for reading and language development
- The arts build strong mathematical skills
- The arts advance the motivation to learn
- The arts promote positive social development; and

WHEREAS, inner-city and rural children have not had the same opportunities as children living in wealthier districts to learn in, through, and about the arts; and

WHEREAS, the President's Committee on the Arts and on the Humanities report entitled Reinvesting in Arts Education: Winning America's Future Through Creative Schools offers key recommendations to strengthen existing arts education programs, including:

- Building robust collaborations that encourages different approaches to arts education
- Developing the field of arts integration
- Expanding in-school opportunities for teaching artists
- Utilizing federal and state policies to reinforce the place of arts in K-12 education
- Widening the focus of evidence gathering about arts education; and

WHEREAS, performance results from the federal Arts In Education program demonstrate the ability of arts integration to boost achievement results among low-income and minority students; and

WHEREAS, local arts agencies, artists, and arts institutions and organizations stand ready and willing to work with school districts and teachers to improve arts education,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that members of The United States Conference of Mayors urge local school districts and administrators to maximize the use of federal education

funds available through the above-named programs, as well as state funds where permissible, to deliver high-quality arts instruction and to integrate the arts with other core subjects; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to incorporate the recommendations of President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities into the reauthorization of the Elementary & Secondary Education Act; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to appropriate a minimum of \$40 million for the Arts in Education program, which will support the further development and dissemination of effective models for improving the quantity and quality of arts education.

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 45 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 100,000 nonprofit arts organizations, and 5,000 local arts agencies in cities throughout the country; and

WHEREAS, federal arts funding leverages up to seven times more in matching funds from state and local governments, private foundations, corporations and individuals in communities across the nation to support the highest quality cultural programs in the nation; 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 with \$688.5 million annually in local government funding, \$272 million in state government funding to the arts, and \$12.3 billion in private giving to the arts; 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, such as the Mayors' Institute on City Design (MICD) 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 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 recently celebrated the 25th Anniversary of MICD by awarding competitive community development grants ranging from \$25,000 to \$250,000 to those cities whose mayors have active and innovative city programs such as cultural districts, placemaking and community engagement, and public art over the last 25 years; and

WHEREAS, the NEA has also announced its new "Our Town" initiative, investing a proposed \$5 million in up to 35 communities to support planning and design projects, and arts engagement strategies; and

WHEREAS, in the 2010 National Arts Index, conducted by Americans for the Arts, a measure of the health and vitality of the arts in the United States, composed of 81 equal-weighted, national-level indicators of arts and culture activity that covers a 12-year period, found that federal funding for the arts is as crucial as ever given the 6.2 point decline in the Index score between 2007 and 2009, from 103.9 down to 97.7; and

WHEREAS, federal, state and local financial support for the arts has fallen, additional NEA funding to support a competitive local re-granting program should be re-established to provide incentives for local governments to invest in targeted ways in the arts by infusing \$5-10 million in new dedicated federal funding to local arts agencies, which would be matched to spur new local investment; and

WHEREAS, the NEA plays a very important role in developing partnerships with other federal agencies such as HUD, Education and Transportation, in order to open new channels for arts organizations to work with all aspects of government; and

WHEREAS, The United States Conference of Mayors has unanimously passed policy resolutions partnered with Americans for the Arts on Arts Advocacy Day to send letters to the President and leaders of the U.S. Senate and House to increase federal funding for the arts and humanities and Mayor Kautz, President of the USCM, participated in Arts Advocacy Day on April 5, 2011 offering her views and support that Congress appropriate \$167.5 million in FY2011; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors reaffirms its support of the National Endowment for the Arts, National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Office of Museum Services within the Institute of Museum and Library Services and calls upon Congress to restore full funding for these agencies in the FY 2012 appropriations bills at a level of \$167.5 million and to adopt a formal re-granting partnership program for local arts agencies to help the NEA better serve arts organizations of all sizes in communities across the country; and

BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the federal government to invest in nonprofit arts organizations through local arts agencies as a catalyst to generate economic impact, create jobs, stimulate business development, spur urban renewal, attract tourists and area residents to community activities, and to improve the overall quality of life in America's cities.

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 the six 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 2011 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.

ENCOURAGING BUSINESS SUPPORT FOR THE ARTS

WHEREAS, with nearly \$3 billion in corporate arts funding, businesses play a key role in ensuring the health and vitality of the nation's arts sector (2010 Business Committee for the Arts Triennial Survey); and

WHEREAS, the current economic environment has also created a critical context for arts practitioners and funders to consider the contributions of arts and culture in effecting social change. At the October 2008 Grantmakers in the Arts conference, in the immediacy of economic turmoil, funding leaders anticipated that many could be looking to fulfill multiple goals with more limited resources and that investment in arts and culture as contributors to social and civic solutions would become more desirable (Trend or Tipping Point); and

WHEREAS, funding for the arts from foundations has remained one of the more stable sources of private giving to the arts throughout both good and bad economic times, though there are unmistakable signs that this may be changing as foundations realign giving priorities; and

WHEREAS, the arts are a business. There are nearly 100,000 nonprofit arts and culture organizations. Nationally, the nonprofit arts and culture industry generates \$166.2 billion in economic activity every year—\$63.1 billion in spending by organizations and an additional \$103.1 billion in event-related spending by their audiences. Adding in for-profit arts businesses (such as film, design, publishing, and architecture), there are 612,095 businesses in the United States involved in the creation or distribution of the arts that employ 2.98 million people. Nationally, arts businesses represent 4.3% of all business and 2.2% of all employees; and

WHEREAS, U.S. employers rate creativity/innovation among the top five skills that will increase in importance over the next five years (Ready to Innovate); and

WHEREAS, 72% of businesses who contribute to the arts believe that supporting the arts can stimulate creative thinking, problem solving and team building (BCA Triennial Survey); and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors urges mayors and businesses to partner with nonprofit and municipal arts organizations and foundations in their communities as a catalyst to generate economic impact, create jobs, stimulate business development, spur urban renewal, attract tourists and area residents to community activities, and to improve the overall quality of life in America's cities.

OUTDOOR ARTS AND CULTURAL FESTIVALS

WHEREAS, arts and cultural outdoor festivals are an excellent source of revenue and build a sense of community in the city where they occur; and

WHEREAS, a typical outdoor festival showcases many different types of art forms with music being the most prevalent, but most all outdoor festivals being multidisciplinary in nature while also being racially/ethnically diverse; and

WHEREAS, according to the National Endowment for the Arts' recent study, Live From your Neighborhood, outdoor festivals are committed to quality programming , with 70 percent having an artistic staff or a staff person or volunteer whose primary role is arts curator or arts event programmer; and

WHEREAS, the nearly two-thirds of outdoor festivals offer formal educational activities or programming, such as lectures, artist demonstrations, and classes; and

WHEREAS, most outdoor festivals are either free to the public or have some form of discounted ticketing that allows for all members of society the ability to attend; and

WHEREAS, according to the same NEA report, 77 percent of outdoor arts festivals occur in towns with fewer than 250,000 residents and of those, 39 percent occur in towns with fewer than 10,000 people; and

WHEREAS, a majority of outdoor festivals have occurred in the same community for more than a decade; and

WHEREAS, support of local government agencies is crucial to the success of outdoor festivals ranging from funding to the participation and partnership of local city departments such as the parks and recreation, police and sanitation departments; and

WHEREAS, after corporate sponsorships, support from local and/or municipal governments is the most common source of funding with 44% of festivals saying they received such support; and

WHEREAS, outdoor festivals rely heavily on volunteers with 70% of festivals being run by five or fewer full-time equivalent staff members, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the United States Conference of Mayors urges mayors to promote outdoor festivals as a benefit to their local cultural community and the economy of their city.

JAZZ DAY AND JAZZ APPRECIATION MONTH

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, we honor and recognize the outstanding work that all jazz artists, educators, and enthusiasts present; 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, on April 13, 2012 cities will celebrate Jazz Day and mayors are encouraged to plan jazz related activities and programming; and

WHEREAS, The United States Conference of Mayors members participated in Jazz Appreciation Month for the past two years; and

WHEREAS, the month of April 2012 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, Jazz Day April 13, 2012 and to celebrate the month of April as Jazz Appreciation Month.

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF IMPROVING INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL
FACILITATION THROUGH THE DISCOVER AMERICA PARTNERSHIP
REACTIVATION AND READY FOR TAKEOFF REPORT**

WHEREAS, international travel remains one of the few bright spots in a struggling global economy, America's visa policies have deterred visitors from our shores, cost hundreds of thousands of jobs and deepened our recession; and

WHEREAS, the number of global long-haul travelers increased by 61 million from 2000 to 2010, the number of overseas visitors to the United States stayed flat; and

WHEREAS, overseas visitors to the United States are walking stimulus packages, each spending an average of more than \$4,000 per visit and failure to keep pace with the growth in international long-haul travel would cost the U.S. economy \$606 billion in total spending and \$37 billion in direct tax receipts; and

WHEREAS, in 2008 and 2009 alone, a total of 400,000 U.S. travel industry jobs were lost. Moreover, in addition to the impact on the travel industry, our nation's travel policies discourage companies from using the United States as a destination for training, meetings and business development – including purchasing products – with international customers and colleagues; and

WHEREAS, the Discover America Partnership is a broad coalition of stakeholders united together to advance visa and entry reforms that will, by 2015, enable the United States to regain the 17 percent market share of overseas travelers it had in 2000, which would create over 1 million U.S. jobs by 2020; and

WHEREAS, on May 12, the U.S. Travel Association (USTA) released a comprehensive report – Ready for Takeoff – including 34 specific recommendations – to address America's significant visa challenges in China, India, Brazil and other nations around the globe; and

WHEREAS, the report will form the basis for a targeted advocacy agenda to welcome millions of new international visitors by 2020 and create over one million new U.S. jobs.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors supports the U.S. Travel Association's Ready for Takeoff report and the accompanying recommendations to improve the efficiency of the visa entry process; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we support the issuance of a presidential directive to recapture 17 percent of the global long-haul travel market and match Western Europe's current share in the Brazil, China and India markets by 2015.

SUPPORTING THE 34TH AMERICA'S CUP

WHEREAS, the competition for the America's Cup, first held in 1851 at Cowes, England, is one of the oldest international sporting competitions and the world's premier yacht racing event; and

WHEREAS, on February 14, 2010, San Francisco's Golden Gate Yacht Club won the 33rd America's Cup match in Valencia Spain, returning the America's Cup trophy to American hands; and

WHEREAS, on December 31, 2010 the Golden Gate Yacht Club selected San Francisco to host the 34th America's Cup, and on January 4, 2011 San Francisco entered into an agreement with the America's Cup Event Authority to be the host and venue for the 34th America's Cup; and

WHEREAS, leading up to the final America's Cup match, the America's Cup Event Authority intends to hold a series of regattas, the America's Cup World Series, to include U.S. cities, which will provide significant economic benefits to those cities; and

WHEREAS, hosting the 34th America's Cup in San Francisco would generate substantial public benefits, including (i) repair, improvement and productive reuse of certain San Francisco piers that are currently in a state of disrepair and for which there are currently no sources of funding; (ii) the generation of significant new jobs and economic development in a very short period of time, including over 9,000 jobs and more than \$1.4 billion in new economic activity; and (iii) substantially increased public access to the waterfront, and an extraordinary showcase to the rest of the world for the San Francisco Bay, for California, and for the United States; and

WHEREAS, international tourism expenditures in the United States are considered a U.S. export, the expected overseas tourism for the 34th America's Cup events would further President Obama's goal of increasing U.S. exports; and

WHEREAS, while prior America's Cup racing has been held far offshore with no opportunity for on-shore public viewing, the 34th America's Cup, held in the natural amphitheatre of the San Francisco Bay, would provide unprecedented public viewing from shore, literally bringing the event to the people; and

WHEREAS, the 34th America's Cup would engage young people interested in sailing with its Youth America's Cup program, connecting young persons from around the country, with an eye toward disadvantaged neighborhoods, to the racing boats and training activities, and working with them to build sailing skills and interest; and

WHEREAS, the America's Cup Event Authority campaign of corporate social responsibility would, partnered with U.S. ocean conservation and sustainability not-for-profit organizations, dedicate its multi-million dollar media platform to education and outreach efforts surrounding sustainable ocean management, and importantly, to enlarging American and international marine sanctuaries; and

WHEREAS, the 34th America's Cup, as an event organized in a sustainably responsible manner, would become a model for future regattas and sporting events,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports the 34th America's Cup in San Francisco and the economic benefits the competition will bring to the United States.

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF CREATING A GOVERNMENT ADMINISTERED TRUSTED TRAVELER PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the United States air transportation system is an essential part of our country's transportation infrastructure and critical to U.S. economic vitality; and

WHEREAS, by facilitating the movement of goods and people, air transportation enhances commerce, connects people and communities, and provides Americans with a better quality of life; and

WHEREAS, civil aviation is vital to the travel and tourism industry, which generates more than \$113 billion in tax revenue for local, state, and federal governments, employs 7.7 million Americans, and accounts for one in nine U.S. jobs; and

WHEREAS, the same attributes that make civil aviation an essential part of our everyday lives also make it an attractive target for acts of terrorism; and

WHEREAS, following the events of September 11, 2001, the efforts of the Department of Homeland Security and the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) in coordination with multiple federal, state and local agencies, have proved pivotal in deterring and preventing another large-scale terrorist attack on U.S. soil; and

WHEREAS, despite changes to aviation security after September 11, 2001, the existing aviation security system is deterring travelers and must be improved to become more efficient and secure, and better serve the needs of the traveling public; and

WHEREAS, a 2008 survey of air travelers found that 28 percent of travelers avoided at least one trip because of air travel hassles, which translates into a \$26.5 billion dollar loss to the U.S. economy, including \$4.2 billion in federal, state and local tax revenue; and

WHEREAS, according to a 2010 survey conducted by Consensus Research, American travelers would take an additional two to three flights per year if the hassles in security screening system were eliminated, and these additional flights would add nearly \$85 billion in consumer spending and 900,000 jobs to the American economy.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports the creation and implementation of a broad, government-administered trusted traveler program that contains a voluntary enrollment process, sufficient background checks to determine the low-risk nature of enrollees, and a checkpoint process that reflects the low-risk nature of the traveler; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges the United States Congress to work with TSA to implement a new, voluntary, government-run trusted traveler program, with the goals of refocusing aviation security resources on the highest risk passengers, improving passenger facilitation, and maintaining a high level of security.

EVERYONE IN URBAN AMERICA SHOULD LIVE WITHIN A SHORT WALK OF A PARK THAT IS CLEAN, SAFE AND VIBRANT

WHEREAS, nearly four in five Americans now live in urban areas;

WHEREAS, More than at any time in our history, urban areas are the engines generating our nation's wealth – keeping America competitive in the rapidly changing global market;

WHEREAS, our most economically sound cities are the ones with ample parks and open spaces, which have been determined to be essential to the quality of city life;

WHEREAS, a key factor in business re-location decisions is the quality of life for employees, with a premium on adequate parks and open space;

WHEREAS, a study completed by Texas A&M University showed that parks and open space contributed positively to the property values of surrounding properties;

WHEREAS, for every \$1 million invested in parks and recreation infrastructure, at least 20 jobs are created;

WHEREAS, healthy parks and urban green spaces are strongly linked to a greater sense of safety, less aggressive and violent behavior and lower levels of crime;

WHEREAS, a group of studies reviewed in the American Journal of Preventive Medicine showed that the creation of or enhanced access to places for physical activity combined with informational outreach produced a 48.4 percent increase in the frequency of physical activity;

WHEREAS, parks and open spaces also help mitigate the impacts of climate change, by helping to capture and store rain during extreme precipitation events and cooling cities during heat waves;

WHEREAS, America's mayors have long recognized the value of healthy vibrant parks and have led innovative park and open space development initiatives across the country;

WHEREAS, America's mayors have historically supported urban park systems through a variety of forward-thinking programs;

WHEREAS, a new federal policy is needed that recognizes urban parks as a national economic priority, leverages their potential to create healthier and more vibrant cities, and supports the development of diverse and sustainable funding mechanisms;

WHEREAS, President Barack Obama has directed federal agencies to adopt a holistic and integrated approach to urban policy through programs such as the Neighborhood Revitalization Initiative, Partnerships for Sustainable Communities, and Regional Innovation Clusters;

WHEREAS, President Obama launched the America's Great Outdoors (AGO) Initiative in April 2011 and charged the Secretaries of the Departments of the Interior and Agriculture, the

Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Chair of the White House Council on Environmental Quality to develop a 21st-century conservation and recreation agenda;

WHEREAS, President Obama has called on Congress to fully fund the Land Water and Conservation Fund, revenue derived from oil and gas royalty revenue and not from personal taxes, to support the America's Great Outdoors Initiative;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors applauds President Barack Obama for his commitment to develop a 21st century urban policy and conservation and recreation agenda and the Administration's leadership to enhance funding for community efforts to protect and restore parks, natural places, and our land and water.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges President Obama to include urban parks as essential elements in a comprehensive approach to urban policy and community development.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Mayors to support the adoption and implementation of the recommendations of the America's Great Outdoors Initiative.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to support full funding for the Land Water and Conservation Fund to establish and support great urban parks.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Mayors to raise awareness of the need for greater public and private investment in parks and green space to create healthy, walkable and sustainable cities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors and the nation's Mayors stand ready to work in partnership with the President, all members of the Administration and Congress to create healthy and vibrant urban parks and open spaces for the 21st century and work to engage the public and private leaders in this effort.

ENCOURAGING A TIMELY RESOLUTION TO THE NFL LABOR DISPUTE

WHEREAS, the collective bargaining agreement between the NFL and its players' association expired in March of this year; and

WHEREAS, the 2011 season is threatened by the ongoing labor dispute; and

WHEREAS, an NFL season has a significant economic impact in each team's city; and

WHEREAS, additional economic impact is created in cities that host NFL training camps; and

WHEREAS, the economic impact is felt far beyond the NFL and its employees and includes hoteliers, restaurateurs, shopkeepers, cab drivers and service employees; and

WHEREAS, cities benefit from the taxes generated by NFL games and from the national attention created by televised games;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, we, The United States Conference of Mayors, recognize the significant economic value of having a complete 2011 NFL season.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, we, The United States Conference of Mayors, encourage a timely resolution to the labor dispute that will allow the 2011 NFL season to take place in its entirety.

TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION “NOTICE OF INQUIRY” RELATED TO PUBLIC RIGHTS-OF-WAY AND WIRELESS FACILITIES SITING

WHEREAS, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has issued a Notice of Inquiry (the “Notice of Inquiry”) regarding issues arising from the use of public rights-of-way and sites for wireless facilities in connection with the provision of broadband services; and

WHEREAS, the accelerated availability and adoption of reliable, affordable and competitive broadband services is in the interest of America’s urban population; and

WHEREAS, it is equally in the public interest that the installation of privately-owned, for-profit facilities and equipment in public streets and other public rights-of-way be conditioned on appropriate protections of the interests of the public in the safety and integrity of the use of such rights-of-way; on the payment of a reasonable rental to the public by such private, for-profit users; and on appropriate assurances that the public interest will be protected and advanced in the provision of the services being delivered via the occupancy of public rights-of-way; and

WHEREAS, it is one of the long-standing and critical roles of municipal government to engage in appropriate land use planning and management in the public interest, and that municipal governments are best equipped and most familiar with the particular land use issues arising within their jurisdictions, as compared to federal or state level regulators; and

WHEREAS, the installation of wireless towers and other facilities can implicate both efforts to offer broadband services provision of which municipal governments are eager to expand to their constituents as well land use concerns that municipal governments have long-standing experience in balancing and evaluating; and

WHEREAS, Congress has deferred in a significant and far-reaching manner to the role of state and municipal governments in matters relating to the private use of public-rights-of-way and the evaluation of land use issues as they relate to the siting of wireless facilities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors calls upon the FCC to undertake its efforts to expand the availability and adoption of reliable, affordable and competitive broadband services in manner which fully respects the role of municipal governments in assuring that the use of public rights-of-way to install private, profit-making facilities is undertaken in the public interest, with a reasonable rental paid to the public, and with appropriate protections for the integrity of public property;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls upon the FCC to assure that any actions it takes arising out of the Notice of Inquiry fully respect the legal limits that Congress has both expressly and impliedly placed on the authority of the FCC to preempt local action with respect to the use of public rights-of-way and land use management; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls upon the FCC to assure that the traditional role of municipal governments to assure that private occupancy of public rights-of-way be implemented in a manner that redounds broadly to the benefit of a municipality's citizens, and not just in a limited or restricted manner; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls upon the FCC to assure that the billions of dollars in rental compensation revenue which municipalities receive each year on behalf of their local taxpayers in connection with communications-related private occupancy of public rights-of-way are fully protected, are in no way compromised, and remain subject to appropriate expansion as such private occupancy expands; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls upon the FCC to assure that the full authority and expertise of municipal governments in matters of land use and management be respected in matters of wireless facilities siting; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls upon the FCC to respect the intention and direction of Congress, expressed in 47 USC Section 253(d) and the legislative history associated therewith, that matters related to reasonable compensation for use of public rights of way in connection with provision of telecommunications services, and matters related to the management of public rights-of-way in connection with provision of telecommunications services, are matters within the jurisdiction of the judiciary and not the FCC.

2011 BROADBAND COMMUNICATIONS POLICY AND OPPOSITION TO FCC NOI

WHEREAS, mayors support the universal availability of affordable wire line and wireless broadband services and

WHEREAS, mayors, as the CEOs of local governments, which are themselves significant and sophisticated users of broadband communications technology and eagerly await choice of broadband providers, faster speeds and lower prices; and

WHEREAS, mayors recognize the increasing and vital role broadband wire line and wireless communications plays in both homeland and hometown security; and

WHEREAS, The Conference of Mayors' broadband communications advocacy efforts with Congress, the Federal Communications Commission and the Administration have 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
- Federal policy must continue to distinguish a tax from a fee for benefit rendered, such as use of the rights-of-way.

WHEREAS, the Federal Communications Commission released a Notice Of Inquiry on April 7, 2001, relating to the "Acceleration of Broadband Deployment: Expanding the Reach and Reducing the Cost of Broadband Deployment by Improving Policies Regarding Public Rights of Way and Wireless Facilities Siting, WC Docket No. 11-59"; and

WHEREAS, the NOI appears to be based on the premise that local rights-of-way regulatory and compensation issues constitute "barriers to entry" for broadband service; and

WHEREAS, the FCC has – in the past – used such NOIs to issue orders that would severely limit municipal authority through federal preemption; and

WHEREAS, despite the announcement by the FCC in the National Broadband Plan last year that it would appoint a Local Government Right-of-Way Advisory Committee, the FCC has

never has. Rather, the Commission relied on an industry-dominated panel without any meaningful input from local governments before it issued the NOI; and

WHEREAS, recent research conducted the National Telecommunications and Information Agency demonstrates the highest levels of broadband deployment are found in high density areas, such as cities; and

WHEREAS, Congress in crafting the Communications Act made clear in Section 253 [47 USC Section 253 (c)] that local governments retained the right to manage their rights of way and obtain reasonable compensation for use of same; and that in Section 332 (c) (7) that local government also retained zoning authority over the siting of wireless devices and that the FCC has no jurisdiction to preempt local zoning rules or right-of-way regulations, or to set rights-of-way compensation.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors' advocacy efforts in response to the NOI shall advocate policies that:

- 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;
- Preserve the ability of local governments to collect rental fees for the use of public property as provided by each state's law;
- 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. For instance, wireless providers, like their competitors, should be subject to local fair business practices and local cell tower siting authority.
- Encourage competition among multiple broadband service providers;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Conference staff is directed to craft a nationally coordinated strategy that draws on the political, media, legal, public works, and planning resources of the local government community to respond to the threats outlined in the Commission's NOI.

**OPPOSE LEGISLATION THAT WOULD PREEMPT LOCAL REVENUE RAISING
AUTHORITY WITH RESPECT TO TAXATION OF WIRELESS
TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES**

WHEREAS, the national economic downturn and mortgage foreclosure crisis has created an enormous loss of local government revenue through decreased property tax receipt levels; and

WHEREAS, local governments will continue to face severe budget shortfalls as a result of the national mortgage foreclosure crisis through 2012 at an estimated cumulative level of \$56 to \$83 billion; and

WHEREAS, these continued shortfalls will persist in forcing local governments to reduce staff levels and critical local services, including law enforcement and emergency response, as well as delay much-needed infrastructure projects capable of revitalizing local and regional economies; and

WHEREAS, local governments require autonomy to tailor tax policies to respond to changing economic circumstances, account for available sources of revenue, meet the needs of residents and react to industry changes that place fluctuating demands on public infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, local officials organizing local tax policies are held accountable for these policies through local elections; and

WHEREAS, House and Senate legislation has been reintroduced in the 112th Congress which would strip local governments of the authority to modify taxes on wireless telecommunications services and the providers of such services regardless of the need for flexibility in local taxing authority on telecommunications services to adapt to innovation in telecommunications delivery platforms, or the impact of telecommunications services and the delivery of these services on public infrastructure, local communities and their residents; and

WHEREAS, this legislation would set a dangerous precedent in granting favoritism to one segment of an extremely profitable and rapidly expanding industry at the expense of local governments, compromise the rules of federalism outlined in the 10th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, and in doing so establish a model for other industries to similarly seek federal preemptive relief from state and local taxes; and

WHEREAS, the current tax treatment of wireless services by federal, state and local authorities has not hindered product innovation, service growth or industry profitability. According to the FCC, wireless industry subscribership has grown over 158% since 2000 and wireless industry revenue has grown over 124% over that same period; and

WHEREAS, government at all levels, including the federal government, has imposed fees on phone services, regardless of the technology employed by the service. Among these fees are 911 fees and universal service commitment. These fees have resulted in consumers having access to public safety services on an expedited basis, and has ensured that service is available to all; and

WHEREAS, an increasing number of cell phone subscribers are purchasing services on a prepaid basis, requiring state and local governments to amend laws to ensure that these prepaid services are not exempt from payment of the fees and taxes currently collected on wireless services, laws that could be barred by enactment of a wireless services tax moratorium;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that as Congress considers legislation, The United States Conference of Mayors urges telecommunications providers to work with cities to negotiate mutually acceptable provisions in the legislation.

IMPROVING PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS

WHEREAS, last year The United States Conference of Mayors passed a comprehensive resolution calling for reallocation of the so-called D Block of the 700 MHz spectrum to public safety; and

WHEREAS, all of the national state and local government organizations and all of the national public safety organizations agree that the D Block should be reallocated to public safety and are working together in support of legislation to achieve this; and

WHEREAS, legislation has been introduced in the House and Senate to reallocate the D Block to public safety and use the proceeds of the auction of other portions of the spectrum to pay for the build out and maintenance of a nationwide interoperable public safety broadband network; and

WHEREAS, in his Wireless Innovation and Infrastructure Initiative and FY 2012 budget proposals announced earlier this year the President called for reallocating the D Block to public safety and the development and deployment of a nationwide wireless public safety broadband network; and

WHEREAS, the Chair and Vice Chair of the 9/11 Commission in testimony before the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee earlier this year called for the immediate allocation of the D Block spectrum to public safety, said further delay is intolerable, and urged Congress to act; and

WHEREAS, the nation will observe the 10th anniversary of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks in just a few months,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors calls for quick passage of legislation that would reallocate the D Block to public safety and the use of proceeds from other FCC spectrum auctions, as directed by Congress, to offset the cost of network deployment, operation and maintenance, in order to ensure that all states and localities can afford costs associated with transition to a nationwide network; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors endorses the establishment of a non-profit corporation to hold the public safety broadband spectrum license, to build and oversee the wireless network, and to ensure seamless nationwide interoperability, and that state and local government and public safety representatives be well represented on the governing board of that corporation in order to assure public safety control of the local/regional component of the nationwide network; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to pass and the President to sign this legislation before the 10th anniversary of the September 11 attacks.

IN SUPPORT OF THE PRESIDENT'S HIGH SPEED RAIL INITIATIVE

WHEREAS, the Obama Administration High Speed Rail Initiative calls for a nationwide network that will connect 80 percent of Americans to high-speed rail in 25 years; and

WHEREAS, to achieve this goal the Administration has proposed \$53 billion over the next 6 years as part of its surface transportation reauthorization proposal outline in its February budget; and

WHEREAS, high speed rail will put thousands of Americans to work, save hundreds of thousands of hours for American travelers every year, and boost U.S. manufacturing by investing hundreds of millions of dollars in next-generation, American-made locomotives and railcars; and;

WHEREAS, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 and annual appropriations have, to date, provided \$10.1 billion to put America on track towards providing rail access to new communities and improving the reliability, speed and frequency of existing lines, and approximately \$5.8 billion dollars has already been obligated for rail projects; and .

WHEREAS, a strict “Buy America” requirement for high-speed rail projects ensures that U.S. manufacturers and workers will receive the maximum economic benefits from this federal investment; and

WHEREAS, in 2009, Secretary LaHood secured a commitment from 30 foreign and domestic rail manufacturers to employ American workers and locate or expand their base of operations in the U.S. if they are selected for high-speed-rail contracts; and

WHEREAS, Congress failed to fund the program as part of the FY2011 Continuing Resolution;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors commends the President, Vice President Biden and Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood for their leadership in promoting high speed rail for America;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to support the Administration’s High Speed Rail Initiative through the appropriations and authorizations process.

A METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION REAUTHORIZATION

WHEREAS, the statute for federal surface transportation expired September 30, 2009 and has been sustained through numerous extensions; and

WHEREAS, the nation's cities are greatly in need of a new national transportation statute which would enhance programmatic funding for transit, road and bridge projects and modernize the funding distribution and decision-making process to acknowledge the emergence of metropolitan regions as the centerpiece of the U.S. economy and transportation needs; and

WHEREAS, this reauthorization should provide substantial new funding for public transit projects including buses, light and heavy rail, streetcars, trolley, and bus rapid transit, and high speed rail, bike and pedestrian projects along with highway, bridge and road projects; and

WHEREAS, a recent survey of 176 mayors by the U.S. Conference of Mayors underscored that Mayors believe future federal transportation should focus on metropolitan areas; and

WHEREAS, the Obama Administration, as part of its FY2012 budget submission, outlined a plan for reauthorization of surface transportation programs, including \$556 billion over 6 years which was streamlined, multimodal, and metropolitan focused and included innovations such as continuation of a program similar to the TIGER program, a National Infrastructure Bank and other innovations; and

WHEREAS, a timely reauthorization of surface transportation programs, incorporating the broad vision of Mayors and the Obama Administration, would be timely and provide great assistance to job creation, economic growth and mobility

WHEREAS, the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee along with the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, the Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee and the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee, are deliberating on the future of the federal transportation programs under their oversight;

WHEREAS, the House Appropriations Committee is considering a significant decrease to the New Starts/Small Starts program which could place existing and proposed Full Funding Grant Agreements and Project Construction Grant Agreements in jeopardy and stunt future projects seeking New Starts/Small Starts funding;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress and the Administration to move forward expeditiously on transportation authorization;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors commends the President and Secretary LaHood for the scope and breadth of their reauthorization outline;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress and the Administration to work closely with Mayors on all aspects of the authorization process.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors opposes cuts to the New Starts/Small Starts program and urges Congress and the Administration to honor the terms of all existing Full Funding Grant Agreements and Project Construction Grant Agreements

ACCELERATION OF LOCALLY SPONSORED TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS IN THE FEDERAL PROGRAM THROUGH LOCAL GRANT ADMINISTRATION

WHEREAS, locally-sponsored transportation projects selected through the metropolitan planning process and financed with federal funding are then implemented by local governments;

WHEREAS, all Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) funding must pass through state transportation departments, whether designated for projects in rural villages or the largest cities, regardless of their disparate size and capacity;

WHEREAS, state transportation departments vary in available resources and capabilities, and administration of applications, negotiations, project certifications, and funding transfers for locally-sponsored projects often create lengthy delays in project implementation, sometimes extending for years;

WHEREAS, the U.S. Secretary of Transportation has acknowledged the problem of administrative delays in delivery of critical projects and expressed a desire to eliminate bureaucratic impediments at all levels;

WHEREAS, some larger city and county transportation agencies are of comparable size and capacity to state transportation departments, possessing the technical abilities required to certify design and engineering documents, and otherwise manage the direct receipt of federal highway funds;

WHEREAS, while still preserving existing regional planning and project selection processes, providing local governments -- which FHWA determines have sufficient capacity -- with the option to directly handle the administration of funds would eliminate extra bureaucratic steps and expedite project implementation;

WHEREAS, relieving states of the administrative burden for these FHWA-approved local governments allows a greater focus on assisting other localities and speeds project delivery statewide;

WHEREAS, Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funds already are managed directly by many cities without a state administrative pass through;

WHEREAS, the city of Washington, D.C. already receives direct funding for FHWA projects, demonstrating the feasibility of the streamlined city-federal relationship for transportation projects;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to incorporate reforms in successor legislation to the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) that would expedite project delivery; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that these reforms should allow local governments to “opt-in” to directly administer grants from FHWA for locally-sponsored projects without state pass through, provided that FHWA determines they have the capacity to carry out necessary regulatory responsibilities and manage such a direct federal grant relationship; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that such reforms should only impact the administration of funding for otherwise approved projects, and not alter or circumvent the standard metropolitan transportation planning process to select and prioritize projects for funding on a regional basis.

“AMERICA FAST FORWARD: CREATING JOBS THE RIGHT WAY”

WHEREAS, investments in transportation infrastructure generate more than \$244 billion in total annual U.S. economic activity and confer significant benefits to cities, including: building the infrastructure necessary to support economic growth and goods movement and creating high quality jobs designing, building, operating, and maintaining the infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, America’s unemployment rate continues at 9%; and

WHEREAS, the fiscal and budget realities confronting both the Administration and Congress require a new era of federal financing for transportation that entails smart, targeted, and innovative financing mechanisms that minimize impacts on the federal budget and maximize new job creation; and

WHEREAS, credit assistance, tax incentives, including tax-preferred bonds, can be effective transportation project finance tools, stimulate investment through leveraging pledged state and local revenue streams as well as attracting private capital while limiting federal budgetary costs; and

WHEREAS, the Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) of 1998 established a Federal credit program for eligible transportation projects of national or regional significance under which the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) may provide three forms of credit assistance – secured (direct) loans, loan guarantees, and standby lines of credit; and

WHEREAS, TIFIA’s fundamental goal is to leverage Federal funds by attracting substantial private and other non-Federal co-investment in critical improvements to the nation's surface transportation system and each dollar of Federal funds can provide up to \$10 in TIFIA credit assistance and leverage \$30 in total transportation infrastructure investment; and

WHEREAS, TIFIA provides critical, flexible funding for major transportation projects but US DOT cannot obligate funds and lock in interest rates until each project is ready-to-go, thereby preventing transportation agencies and other infrastructure project sponsors from fully taking advantage of market conditions; and

WHEREAS, TIFIA has limited annual budget authority to fund the subsidy costs of credit instruments at a time when demand for TIFIA assistance is more than ten times what can be accommodated today; and

WHEREAS, local and state governments should be provided incentives for innovative financing for infrastructure projects at a time when early construction of these projects can be done at the lowest possible cost and have the most profound impact on creating sustainable jobs and existing tools for transportation investment are insufficient; and

WHEREAS, there is precedent for Congress to establish tax preferred bond programs, including Qualified School Construction Bonds, Clean Renewable Energy Bonds, and Qualified Energy Conservation Bonds; and

WHEREAS, America Fast Forward would support the creation of a 21st century national surface transportation system by expanding and enhancing TIFIA and creating a targeted tax preferred bond for surface transportation infrastructure investment; and

WHEREAS, America Fast Forward would leverage limited Federal dollars by attracting new co-investment in transportation infrastructure, including private investment in tax-preferred bonds; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that America Fast Forward will generate almost one million new jobs in the U.S., \$51 billion in income, and \$158 billion in total economic output; and

WHEREAS, transportation reauthorization offers an opportunity to expand the scope of the TIFIA program and create targeted tax preferred debt programs for transportation infrastructure investment;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports America Fast Forward and urges Congress to expand and create innovative transportation infrastructure finance programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to modify the TIFIA loan program in the following ways: significantly increase annual funding from \$122 million to \$375 million per year or higher; increase the maximum TIFIA share of project financing from 33% to 49%; allow USDOT to make upfront contingent credit commitments for programs of related projects; and authorize USDOT to offer a limited interest rate hedge to help protect cities and project sponsors from financing cost increase risk; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to establish a new federal tax preferred bond program that would benefit state and local governments sponsors of vital surface transportation projects that meet national criteria.

IN SUPPORT OF INCREASING THE PASSENGER FACILITY CHARGE

WHEREAS, the House and Senate are currently conferencing an FAA Reauthorization bill that offers an opportunity to modernize America's aviation infrastructure, including airports; and

WHEREAS, for cities across America, airports are a vital economic engine for job creation and sustainable growth; and

WHEREAS, the Passenger Facility Charge (PFC) is a federally authorized fee first proposed by the Regan Administration that local airport authorities can leverage to finance job creating airport modernization projects at no cost to federal discretionary spending; and

WHEREAS, the current level of funding is \$4.50 per passenger enplanement and raised over \$2.9 billion in funding in 2009 but has not been raised in ten years; and

WHEREAS, PFCs create jobs on projects that are highly visible and can be moved quickly; and

WHEREAS, Congress and the Obama Administration have an opportunity to create jobs in metropolitan areas by allowing an increase in PFC in the conference committee; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urge Congress and the Obama Administration to include language in the FAA Reauthorization bill that would allow airports to increase their Passenger Facility Charge.

**IN SUPPORT OF THE USE OF RED LIGHT AND SPEED SAFETY CAMERAS TO
REDUCE INJURIES AND FATALITIES ON OUR NATION'S ROADS**

WHEREAS, According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) in 2009, more than 11,000 people were killed and hundreds of thousands injured in speed and red light running related crashes.

WHEREAS, More than 600 communities in 28 states and the District of Columbia currently utilize speed and red light safety cameras to enforce traffic laws.

WHEREAS, On average there are seven fatal crashes and more than one-thousand injury crashes everyday at signalized intersections across the U.S.

WHEREAS, According to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS), Red-light running is the leading cause of urban crashes and speed is a factor in about one-third of all fatal crashes.

WHEREAS, More people are injured in crashes involving red-light running than in any other crash type. Red-light running crashes are estimated to cost the public upwards of \$14 billion annually.

WHEREAS, Nearly two-thirds of the deaths and injuries from red light running related crashes where people other than the red light runner including bicyclists pedestrians and occupants of other vehicles.

WHEREAS, In a February 2011 study, IIHS estimated that red-light safety cameras saved 159 lives from 2004-2008 in 14 of the largest U.S. cities where cameras were used. Up to 815 deaths could have been prevented had cameras been used in all large U.S. cities. Additionally, red light running fatalities were reduced by 24 percent in cities where cameras were deployed.

WHEREAS, The Federal Highway Administration found that communities with red-light safety cameras see a 20-87 percent reduction in red-light running violations within 18 months of implementation.

WHEREAS, 30 percent of all traffic fatalities involve excessive speeding.

WHEREAS, NHTSA estimates that the economic cost of speed-related crashes is \$40.4 billion each year, \$76,865 per minute or \$1,281 per second.

WHEREAS, The National Research Council has recommended that all states should enact enabling legislation for automated speed enforcement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors strongly supports the use of red light and speed safety cameras to help reduce red light running and speed related injuries and fatalities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Conference of Mayors pledges to provide information to Mayors and legislators about the benefits of these lifesaving devices.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Conference of Mayors support safe, efficient and innovative solutions to traffic law enforcement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Conference of Mayors encourages Mayors and other elected officials to considering all options when addressing the issues of speed and red light running including engineering, education and enforcement.

MISCELLANEOUS

SPECIAL RESOLUTION IN HONOR OF ELIZABETH B. KAUTZ MAYOR OF BURNSVILLE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF MAYORS JANUARY 2010-JUNE 2011

WHEREAS, Mayor Elizabeth B. Kautz has been an outstanding President of The United States Conference of Mayors, January 2010-June 2011; and

WHEREAS, in her inaugural address as President and throughout her Presidency she has had one overriding priority: saving and creating jobs; and

WHEREAS, the *2011 Metro Agenda for America* sets forth the Conference of Mayors' support for the Community Development Block Grant Program, the Energy Block Grant, sustainable investments in transportation, reduction of unfunded federal mandates and preemptions, and maintenance of other key federal investments in America's cities; and

WHEREAS, in the fight to save the CDGB program, the Conference of Mayors joined with the National League of Cities and the National Association of Counties to generate empirical data on the impact of CDBG. The report shows that CDBG creates 147,000 jobs each year and generates \$13.1 billion of the Gross Metropolitan Product; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Kautz galvanized a strong lobbying campaign to save CDBG through joining with other mayors in media events in U.S. cities, meetings and events on Capitol Hill, testified before the U.S. Congress, and lobbied individual Senators and Representatives; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Kautz has been a champion of climate protection, both at home and in international settings; and

WHEREAS, her efforts leading up to the UN COP 15 Climate Protection Conference highlighted the essential role of mayors in climate protection and called upon national decision makers at the UN Climate Change Conferences to acknowledge their contribution; and

WHEREAS, under her Presidency, the number of mayors who have signed the U.S. Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement has grown to 1,053; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Kautz led a delegation of Mayors to China for the Sixth Sino-U.S. Mayors Summit, in which U.S. mayors and Chinese mayors discussed best practices and shared ideas about urban challenges. The delegation also was present for in the Opening of the U.S. Pavilion in Singapore at Expo 2010; and

WHEREAS, throughout her tenure as Conference President, she has called upon the federal government step up and recognize the innovative strategies that cities have devised to cope with climate changes; and "wake up and realize that national problems demand national investments"; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Kautz has devoted her time, energy, vision, and intellect to advocate for the cities of this nation and for the significant role of mayors in the life of our nation and the world;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the mayors of the United States, joined by their families and staff, Conference of Mayors staff, and all other conference participants assembled at this great 79th Annual Conference of Mayors in Baltimore express their deepest appreciation and thanks to Mayor Kautz for her strong leadership of this organization through a time marked by political change and continuing economic uncertainty; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors expresses its warmest wishes for Mayor Kautz's continued success and achievement and wishes her all the best that life can offer, now and in the future!

**SPECIAL RESOLUTION IN HONOR OF STEPHANIE RAWLINGS-BLAKE MAYOR
OF BALTIMORE HOST OF THE UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF MAYORS
79TH ANNUAL MEETING**

WHEREAS, Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake has hosted the 79th Annual Conference of Mayors June 17-21, 2011, in the vibrant City of Baltimore; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Rawlings-Blake has made sure that all who have participated in this great meeting learned about and greatly enjoyed the City of Baltimore – the home of Edgar Allen Poe, H. L. Mencken, and where Francis Scott Key wrote "The Star-Spangled Banner," set to the tune of a popular British drinking song; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Rawlings-Blake and her staff, city workers, citizen volunteers, and everyone we met welcomed the Conference participants with warmth and energy; and

WHEREAS, the first night took us to The Frederick Douglass-Isaac Maritime Park to celebrate Baltimore's music and cultural history, or as our program put it, to "feel the vibe!" A little later we stayed up for a little late night Bocce, music, and dessert in Little Italy! and

WHEREAS, Saturday night saw us at Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine, where we enjoyed a traditional Maryland Crab Feast. The delicious food brought back the famous quote of H. L. Mencken, "There are 50 ways to prepare crab, and all of them are good!" Then we had the treat of hearing O'Malley's March, the Irish rock band led by the Governor of Maryland Martin O'Malley, and then went on a trip to Silo Point; and

WHEREAS, our third night was "An Evening of ReVision" at Clipper Hill, followed by meeting the culinary genius Spike Gjerde and again having great food; and

WHEREAS, on Monday afternoon the participants had their choice of three Host City Workshops – "Baltimore Food Policy Initiative," "Raising the Bar on How We Teach," and "Wasn't Hair Spray Filmed in Baltimore?"—all great learning experiences; and

WHEREAS, thanks to Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, the Conference participants have witnessed new development in the city, been wined and dined, saw how living in a silo is possible and amazing, and learned about Baltimore's history, music, and cuisine, -- and we got "*the vibe!*",

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that all here at the 79th Annual Conference of The U.S. Conference of Mayors warmly thank the great Mayor of Baltimore Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, her city government, and her citizens for hospitality that has truly refreshed our spirits and fed our souls.