



THE UNITED STATES  
CONFERENCE OF MAYORS



April 22, 2021

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden  
President  
United States of America  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden,

We, the undersigned, represent organizations of locally elected government leaders who have recognized the immediate need to aggressively address the climate change crisis before us. We want to applaud the Biden-Harris Administration for acknowledging the importance of this issue and making climate change a top priority.

For years, we have been leading by example to implement changes in our communities to reduce carbon emissions in our sources of energy, our buildings, the transportation sector, and other high sources of emissions. We have established bold goals and set out plans to achieve greenhouse gas emission reductions in our communities and address climate impacts. Through our work we have been able to reduce our climate footprint and make our communities stronger, more equitable, and more resilient. However, we cannot do it alone. We need bold steps across all levels of government as well as the private sector, and we need additional tools and incentives, including direct allocation of funds to local governments, if we are to be successful in meeting our goals ahead.

We want to thank your Administration for reentering the Paris Climate Agreement and demonstrating to the world that the United States will once again take a leadership role in this fight.

We also want to thank you for introducing the American Rescue Plan that will not only begin to address our tremendous infrastructure needs but will potentially create millions of new and good-paying jobs, put people back to work, and stimulate our economy out of this economic downturn. In addition, your infrastructure plan includes many components that will assist us with our climate change efforts and ensure a just and green recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. We strongly believe that any infrastructure plan must include a climate component if we are to be successful in rebuilding our economy for the future.

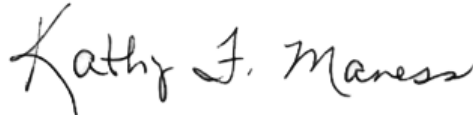
As local elected officials we stand with you as you move forward on your agenda. We are prepared to make bolder goals and further commitments so that we are successful in mitigating and adapting to the devastating impacts of climate change. Thank you again for your leadership.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to our staff – Judy Sheahan at the U.S. Conference of Mayors ([jsheahan@usmayors.org](mailto:jsheahan@usmayors.org)), Carolyn Berndt at National League of Cities ([Berndt@nlc.org](mailto:Berndt@nlc.org)), Jamie Pascal at African American Mayors Association ([jamie@ourmayors.org](mailto:jamie@ourmayors.org)), James Ritchotte at Climate Mayors ([jritchotte@climate-mayors.org](mailto:jritchotte@climate-mayors.org)), Laura Jay at C40 ([ljay@c40.org](mailto:ljay@c40.org)), and Angie Fyfe at ICLEI ([angie.fyfe@iclei.org](mailto:angie.fyfe@iclei.org)).

Sincerely,




Greg Fischer  
Mayor of Louisville  
President  
The U.S. Conference of Mayors



Kathy Maness  
Councilmember, Town of Lexington, SC  
President  
National League of Cities



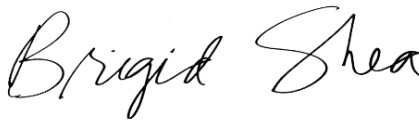
McKinley Price, DDS.  
Mayor of Newport News, VA  
President  
African American Mayors Association



Sylvester Turner  
Mayor of Houston  
Chair  
Climate Mayors



Eric Garcetti  
Mayor of Los Angeles  
Chair of C40 Cities



Brigid Shea  
Commissioner, Travis County  
ICLEI USA Board Chair



Frank Cownie  
Mayor of Des Moines  
President of ICLEI