

ADOPTED RESOLUTIONS

80th ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF MAYORS

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CHILDREN, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

MAYORS SUPPORT FOR FOOD DAY

WHEREAS, we mayors believe that every resident should have access to, and be able to afford, fresh and healthy food in the neighborhoods where they live, and

WHEREAS, a food revolution is taking place in America's cities with the expansion of farmers markets, urban agriculture, food trucks, food incubators and supermarkets; the reform of school food menus and the launch of anti-obesity campaigns;

WHEREAS, despite these initiatives, there remains much to do in the areas of fresh food availability, affordability and education, particularly in our inner-cities and with our young people; and

WHEREAS, mayors across the country have convened Food Policy Councils to develop partnerships among the private sector, non-profits, advocates and foundations to advance healthy food agendas in our cities; and

WHEREAS, mayors across the country have taken an active role in advocating for a Farm Bill that is also a "Healthy Food" bill for the people who live and work in our cities; and

WHEREAS, many mayors across the country participated in the first "Food Day" last October, helping to educate their constituents about the need to eat healthy and buy local; and

WHEREAS, mayors are committed to building healthy food partnerships that go beyond our borders, with regional farmers and producers; with environmental advocates and with health care providers;

NOW, THEREFORE be it resolved the United States Conference of Mayors endorses the proclamation of **October 24, 2012** as "**Food Day**" and urges all mayors to take part in related events on that day;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the United States Conference of Mayors calls on public policy makers at all levels to promote healthy eating and meal preparation, to end hunger and obesity and to create a range of job producing food enterprises in our cities, from food trucks to restaurants; from greenhouses to "green" markets and from regional distribution networks to "local" purchasing by businesses and institutions. Let's practice the principals of "Food Day" every day throughout our cities.

OLDER AMERICANS ACT REAUTHORIZATION

WHEREAS, by 2030, 1 in 4 Americans, including the baby boom generation, will be over the age of 65; and

WHEREAS, one in six seniors live in poverty; and

WHEREAS, the Older Americans Act is the major vehicle for the delivery of essential social and nutrition services for millions of older Americans; and

WHEREAS, all older Americans want to have the necessary long term services and supports to age in their homes and communities and avoid institutional care; and

WHEREAS, the number of elder abuse and neglect cases is increasing; and

WHEREAS, maintaining physical and mental health and economic security allows older Americans to stay active and have a high a quality of life for as long as possible; and

WHEREAS, Mayors and their agencies serving older Americans have utilized these funds to implement innovative programs in the areas of nutrition, supportive services, health promotion and disease prevention programs and caregiver services, tailoring national funds to meet local priorities; and

WHEREAS, federal funding to support older adults and their caregivers has not kept pace with inflation; and

WHEREAS, funding for the Older Americans Act hasn't been increased in over a decade; and

WHEREAS, states are cutting budgets for Medicaid programs, further putting seniors at potential risk; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors encourages Congress to support and strengthen the Older Americans Act to enhance the ability of the aging network to meet the needs of the increasing older adult population; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors supports efforts to give older Americans a level of support and security; including but not limited to nutrition programs, legal and protective services, respite care, caregiver services, information and referral, healthy aging programs and research to determine the real needs of the elderly in their community and the adequacy of existing services and gaps in delivery; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors supports efforts to rebalance the delivery of long term care by supporting and strengthening community

options for long term supports and services, and the aging network's role in the delivery of these services; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on Congress fully fund the programs authorized, to meet the increased need; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls upon Congress and the Administration to reauthorize the Older Americans Act.

URGING THE PASSAGE OF A FARM BILL THAT SUPPORTS HEALTHY, LOCAL, AND REGIONAL FOOD SYSTEMS

WHEREAS, Mayors recognize the many important benefits to cities from the farm and food policy and program support in the Farm Bill, including federal nutrition assistance programs, access to healthy foods for under-resourced communities, promoting environmental stewardship and conservation, and protecting our food supply; and

WHEREAS, there are major concerns about food and farming issues that affect the health of residents in urban America because of hunger and food insecurity in low income populations, lack of access to healthy food in low income areas, chronic diseases related to poor diet such as obesity, diabetes and cardiovascular diseases; and

WHEREAS, legislation is pending in Congress which proposes significant cuts in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) over the next 10 years – cuts which would eliminate or reduce benefits to every SNAP household and jeopardize the national economic recovery by removing billions of dollars from the economy; and

WHEREAS, the areas of our cities which have the highest rates of enrollment in federal nutrition assistance programs also have the least access to healthy food and the highest rates of obesity and diet- related diseases, which ultimately lead to significant health related costs at the federal and local levels; and

WHEREAS, approximately 90% of our nation's farms are owned by smaller scale farmers, and support of smaller scale farmers in a local food system provides economic benefits to each region; and

WHEREAS, Senator Sherrod Brown and Representative Chellie Pingree have introduced the “Local Farms, Food, and Jobs Act” to support local food system, which reflects sound public policy consistent with the intent of the original farm bill purpose; and

WHEREAS, there is a need for strategic focus through a lead point of contact with the US Department of Agriculture for the growing number of creative city-based initiatives which promote a healthy food system, ranging from urban agriculture and aquaculture, greenhouses, business incubators and programs to efforts to expand SNAP purchases at farmer's markets; and

WHEREAS, there are environmental and health concerns arising from production practices and distribution of agricultural products through an elaborate food supply transportation network which contributes to greenhouse gas emissions, and agricultural dependence on pesticides and chemically intensive production that contributes to soil degradation, air and water pollution, and dramatic losses of prime agricultural land in certain states due to urban sprawl, which threatens the preservation and protection of urban watersheds; and

WHEREAS, a strong agriculture conservation program in which city water utilities are full partners is critical to reducing the environmental impact of farming and to protecting watersheds and urban drinking water supplies, and;

WHEREAS, public/private partnerships can significantly improve access to healthy food as in a model program in Pennsylvania run by a Community Development Finance Institution (CDFI) and food access organization that used \$30 million in state funds to leverage more than \$160 million in additional resources to develop 88 healthy food retail projects, more than 5,000 jobs, and access to healthy food for more than 400,000 people, and;

WHEREAS, federal agencies- Treasury, HHS, and USDA are supporting successful efforts to improve access to healthy food through the federal Healthy Food Financing Initiative (HFFI) and related programs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors supports the promotion of access to healthy and affordable foods for all residents, including strengthening incentives and infrastructure to encourage more local fruit/vegetable production and distribution, environmentally sustainable farming practices, better access to fresh foods and investment in programs promoting healthy food, expansion of programs that help communities invest in retail markets, food-based businesses and increasing access to farmers markets, farm-to-cafeteria programs that bring the freshest, locally grown food into school lunch programs and other institutions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors supports the promotion of food security in the Farm Bill by restoring and maintaining funding levels for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), and other nutrition assistance programs including the restoration of the \$14 billion that was cut from SNAP in 2010 to pay for other legislative priorities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors opposes balancing the Federal budget by cutting needed funding to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and by restricting “Heat and Eat” policies that ensure that families do not need to make the impossible choice to pay for food or pay for energy, thereby asking only those less fortunate to make the necessary sacrifices; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors supports preserving and expanding existing USDA programs such as the Senior Farmer’s Market Nutrition Program, the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Snack Program in schools, and programs that advocate for the increased use of Electronic Benefits

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States Conference of Mayors supports the continued funding of HFFI and its inclusion in the reauthorization of the Farm Bill.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we support the establishment of an "Office of Urban Innovations in Agriculture" to help lend strategic focus to system innovations in cities across America and provide mayors and city officials with an information resource and ready access to assistance with the new and existing programs available at USDA, in the areas of urban agriculture and aquaculture, green roof and greenhouse production, and food system business incubation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges the inclusion of provisions of the "Local Farms, Food, and Jobs Act" that support and strengthen local food systems and increase access to healthy and affordable food especially in low-income and under-resourced communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to strengthen and expand agriculture conservation programs as a strategic investment in our country's agricultural infrastructure, including improving air and water quality and the protection of urban water sheds, to continue to require conservation practices as a condition of crop insurance or direct payments, and to sufficiently fund agriculture conservation programs and make water utility watershed management programs eligible for funding under the Partnerships and Cooperation Program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors supports investments in infrastructure, entrepreneurship programs and facilities that process, distribute and develop value-added products using locally-grown commodities purchased from small and mid-sized local farmers including beginning and socially disadvantaged farmers , to meet the demand for local, healthy food, and that funding be preserved or increased for Specialty Crops.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the US Conference of Mayors supports passage of a Farm Bill, which incorporates the above stated goals and principles, before its current expiration of October 1, 2012.

IN SUPPORT OF PRESIDENT OBAMA'S 2012 PRESCRIPTION DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION PLAN

WHEREAS, the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) released a comprehensive action plan to combat the prescription drug abuse epidemic with a national framework for supporting education for patients and health care providers, expanding state-based prescription drug monitoring programs, recommending more convenient and environmentally responsible disposal methods, and reducing the prevalence of pill mills and doctor shopping through enforcement efforts; and

WHEREAS, substantial progress has been made in combating prescription drug abuse as health care professionals, law enforcement officials, and community anti-drug coalitions receive education and training coordinated by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), and/or ONDCP; and

WHEREAS, forty-eight states now have prescription drug databases online or in development as the Department of Justice (DOJ) provided funding to support states' efforts to establish and expand new or existing Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs; and

WHEREAS, take-back efforts have resulted in almost a million pounds of unused and unwanted pills being from medicine cabinets across the country where they can be vulnerable to misuse or abuse without doing harm to the environment or water supply; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the US Conference of Mayors will support the effort to decrease prescription drug abuse and its consequences by encouraging the proper disposal of prescription drugs, speaking out about the dangers of misusing and abusing prescription drugs, and exploring the use of naloxone to reverse overdoses; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the US Conference of Mayors supports the ONDCP's 2012 National Drug Control Policy Strategy that outlines a third way to approach drug control as a Nation that treats drug addiction as a disease and promotes a criminal justice system where drug-related crime is addressed in a fair and equitable manner for every American.

REGARDING TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES FUNDING OF TANF SUPPLEMENTAL GRANTS

WHEREAS, the purposes of the TANF program are to assist needy families to care for their children in their own homes; reduce dependency of needy parents by promoting job preparation, work and marriage; prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies; and encourage the formation and maintenance of two-parent families; and

WHEREAS, the TANF basic block grant was set at \$16.5 billion nationally in 1996 and remains at that same level today; and

WHEREAS, the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 (DRA) authorized the TANF block grant through September 30, 2010. The Claims Resolution Act of 2010 extended it through September 30, 2011 but provided funding for the Supplemental Grants only through part of the third quarter of federal fiscal year 2011; and

WHEREAS, the TANF Supplemental Grant funding that expired in July 2011 was a part of the TANF program since Welfare Reform in 1996; and

WHEREAS, Congress has consistently renewed the grants since 1996 and TANF Supplemental Grant funding has been supported in a bipartisan manner by Mayors, and Presidential administrations; and

WHEREAS, TANF Supplemental Grants were initially created due to the imbalances in the TANF funding formula; and

WHEREAS, Congress decided to supplement the \$16.5 billion in basic annual TANF funding with Supplemental Grants for states with low federal AFDC spending per poor child and states with rapidly growing populations; and

WHEREAS, TANF Supplemental Grant funds assist low- and moderate-income households with basic cash assistance, child care services, work related activities and job training; and

WHEREAS, because of the loss of Supplemental dollars, local and state agencies and their non-profit partners, including economic development and workforce partners will have to lay-off staff; services will be reduced or eliminated; and the low- and moderate-income families served by the program will experience a loss of benefits at the community level; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls upon Congress to provide adequate funding and the reinstatement of the TANF Supplemental Grants; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on the Administration and Congress to support at least \$ 319 million for TANF Supplemental Grant funding in FY13.

SUPPORT WOMEN'S REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

WHEREAS, Americans believe that women should be able to consult with their doctor, family, and faith about personal, private medical decisions; and

WHEREAS, states enacted twice as many anti-choice laws in 2011 as they did in the previous year, including laws that force women who choose abortion care to undergo a forced ultrasound procedure against their will and even if their doctors do not recommend one; and

WHEREAS, eight states since 2010 have enacted laws that ban abortion at 20 weeks, regardless of the women's situation, without exceptions to protect her health, and in violation of the right to privacy guaranteed under *Roe v. Wade*; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. House of Representatives voted to defund Title X, the only federal program exclusively dedicated to family-planning and reproductive-health care, and Planned Parenthood, jeopardizing access to birth control, cancer screenings, and other basic health care for millions of Americans; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. House of Representatives also passed a bill that could spur the Internal Revenue Service to audit rape survivors who choose abortion care and another bill that would allow hospitals to refuse emergency abortion care to women who could die without it; and

WHEREAS, the debate around women's access to reproductive-health services, like contraception, has drawn offensive rhetoric; and

WHEREAS, reproductive-health care and the overwhelming majority of services provided by Planned Parenthood health centers is basic health care for women, including cancer screenings and breast exams; and

WHEREAS, for many women with limited incomes, Planned Parenthood clinics are their point of entry into the health care system and their ongoing source of primary care services; and

WHEREAS, if these services disappear, more women are likely to contract diseases that will imperil their lives and lead to highly expensive Medicaid and Medicare bills borne by taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, these programs are essential to reducing rates of unintended pregnancy and preventing the increase of the number of women with cervical and breast cancers who are not diagnosed until the cancers are in the late stages; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors affirms the importance of women's reproductive rights; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress and the states to pursue a positive agenda that reaffirms fundamental rights and improves women's access to safe and comprehensive reproductive-health care.

IN SUPPORT OF INSPIRING YOUTH THAT HAVE BEEN AFFECTED BY DRUGS AND ALCOHOL

WHEREAS, The United States Conference of Mayors has a proven commitment to supporting the development and empowerment of youth and strengthening families; and

WHEREAS, according to the 2007 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 8.3 million children live with at least one parent who abused or was dependent on alcohol or an illicit drug during the past year; and

WHEREAS, according to the Administration for Children and Families when a child has exposure to either prenatal or postnatal drug use, that child is more likely to experience depression, anxiety, psychiatric disorders, exhibit behavioral problems, and receive lower test scores; and

WHEREAS, children from homes where the parents suffer from substance abuse are more at risk to be neglected, and often need to take a larger role in caring for their parents or other siblings; and

WHEREAS, children of Alcoholics are four times as likely to become an alcoholic when compared to a child without an alcoholic as a parent; and

WHEREAS, adolescents that use drugs or alcohol are more likely to have poor academic achievement or to become involved in criminal activity; and

WHEREAS, organizations in our communities like the Mario Do Right Foundation in Baltimore provide assistance in communities by educating and inspiring youth that have been affected by substance abuse through mentoring and supportive services; and

WHEREAS, many of these non-profit organizations work hand in hand with local, state and federal partners to utilize the services and resources of their governmental partners to provide aid to youth in communities across the country; and

WHEREAS, the Drug Free Communities Support Program supports community based organizations that have been formed to help local youth substance abuse and its consequences; and

WHEREAS, data from the Drug Free Community National Evaluation indicates that middle school-aged youth in funded communities experienced a 16 percent reduction in alcohol use and a 23 percent reduction in marijuana use, while High school-aged youth have reduced their use of alcohol by 9 percent and marijuana use by 7 percent in funded communities,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors recognizes non-profit programs like the Mario Do Right Foundation for its contribution to assist children and families affected by alcohol and substance abuse in communities across the nation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors encourages its mayors to participate in National Drug Facts week January 28 - February 3, 2013; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors further encourages its mayors to support programs which assist young people that face substance abuse in their homes; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the US Conference of Mayors supports the Drug Free Communities Support Program and further calls for an increase in funding for this program and the cadre of other programs that provide assistance to these non-profits.

Projected Cost: Unknown

VIOLENCE PREVENTION

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors has previously and consistently adopted resolutions recognizing that freedom from violence is fundamental to safe and healthy communities; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Justice reported that in 2010 an estimated 3.8 million Americans age 12 or older were victims of violence; and

WHEREAS, public health approaches to violence prevention address the conditions that breed violence, and the behaviors and attitudes that perpetuate it; and

WHEREAS, by definition, public health approaches require the organized efforts and informed choices of organizations, public safety and law enforcement, communities and individuals; and

WHEREAS, CeaseFire is a public health approach to violence prevention; and

WHEREAS, a 2008 evaluation conducted by researchers at Northwestern University and funded by the U.S. Department of Justice found that CeaseFire was associated with a distinct and statistically significant reduction of shootings in the Chicago neighborhoods in which it operated; and

WHEREAS, a 2012 Center for Disease Control and Prevention funded study conducted by researchers at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health found that the CeaseFire replication site, Safe Streets, was associated with a statistically significant decline in either homicides or nonfatal shootings or both in the Baltimore neighborhoods in which it operated; and

WHEREAS, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention at the U.S. Department of Justice considers the CeaseFire approach a model program for violence prevention,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that by the adoption of this resolution, the United States Conference of Mayors affirms its support for public health approaches to violence prevention as pioneered by the CeaseFire health approach.

IN SUPPORT OF THE PREVENTION AND PUBLIC HEALTH FUND

WHEREAS, preventable diseases such as cardiovascular disease, diabetes and many cancers are responsible for 70% of deaths among Americans; and

WHEREAS, disease prevention is a critical answer to soaring health care costs and mounting chronic diseases in this country. In a recent report, the Institute of Medicine says that prevention must be at the center of national strategies to improve health care and calls for more investment in efforts to promote health and prevent disease; and

WHEREAS, preventable chronic diseases account for more than 75% of the \$2.6 trillion we spend annually on medical care and the high costs associated with chronic disease threaten the nation's economic vitality causing diminished labor productivity at a cost of more than \$1 trillion annually; and

WHEREAS, efforts to prevent chronic disease are considerably underfunded; less than 5% of national health spending is devoted to public health activities; and

WHEREAS, research indicates prevention efforts have a high return on investment. A study conducted by the Trust for America's Health found that an investment of \$10 per person annually in proven, community-based public health programs would return more than \$16 billion within five years; and

WHEREAS, the creation of the \$15 billion Prevention and Public Health Fund (Fund) in 2010, which has since been reduced by \$5 billion marked the first major federal expenditure to support innovative community-based prevention programs to curb smoking, promote physical activity, and expand access to healthy foods, and the vital public health infrastructure needed to support their implementation; and

WHEREAS, the Fund represents an unprecedented window of opportunity to build upon our knowledge base, advance evidence-based prevention strategies, and inform policy makers about how to allocate scarce health resources; and

WHEREAS, the Fund will demonstrate the value of investments in prevention over the long term; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges the Congress to remain steadfast in its commitment to the Fund, restore the original funding level and provide reliable and continued funding for efforts to reduce preventable disease rates and advance prevention strategies; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges the President and Congress to continue to support and safeguard the Fund.

SUPPORT CANCER PREVENTION TREATMENT

WHEREAS, over one-third of all Americans will develop cancer during their lifetimes; and

WHEREAS, there are more than 100 types of cancer (such as breast, prostate, liver, brain, lung cancer, and many others) that affect millions of men, women, and children; and

WHEREAS, U.S. Conference of Mayors policies are dedicated to increasing public awareness and saving lives by promoting informed decision making about screening and treatment programs regardless of race and socio-economic background; and

WHEREAS, there is overwhelming public support for prevention, early screening, and access to proper treatment programs for all types of cancer; and

WHEREAS, cancer treatments create an economic burden on families, employers, and all levels of government; and

WHEREAS, federal government spending on cancer treatment continues to escalate despite growing research supporting the long-term economic gains with the use of effective, rapid cancer therapies that quickly lead to individual self-sufficiency and improved health; and

WHEREAS, mayors should support increased public awareness concerning the use of safer and more effective treatment therapies; and

WHEREAS, the expansion of highly effective therapy centers will create permanent jobs and promote economic development in cities of all sizes; and

WHEREAS, there is limited access to safe and highly effective treatment facilities in the United States thus denying access to millions of cancer patients that would have shortened recovery periods and increase survivability; and

WHEREAS, historical precedents exist for the federal government to provide financial support for the construction of cancer therapy facilities; and

WHEREAS, these government-funded facilities have become financially successful local economic engines;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges the federal government and Congress to provide financial support to municipalities to develop public and private partnerships to construct state-of-the-art therapy facilities that are safe and highly effective;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the federal government should seek to incentivize the expansion of treatment facilities that are highly effective utilizing innovative, proven and leading edge technologies, such as proton and other particle therapies, among others.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the federal government develops innovative financing programs to assist local governments and that will reduce federal spending long term while stimulating local economies, and creating permanent jobs for cities of all sizes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that expansion of safe and highly effective cancer treatment facilities will save the lives of millions of children, women, and men and promote more equitable access to effective health care in the United States.

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; and

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.

BE 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.

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF SCHOOL BUS STOP ARM ENFORCEMENT CAMERAS

WHEREAS, several states have already passed legislation aimed at reducing injuries and fatalities to children as they board or depart from school buses that are stopped with their lights flashing and stop sign extended.

WHEREAS, national statistics compiled since 1970 by the Kansas Department of Education show that nationally an average of 11 students have died each year for the past 41 years because motorists have failed to stop and yield to students entering or leaving school buses.

WHEREAS, children riding school buses are most vulnerable to be killed or injured when exiting or boarding the bus.

WHEREAS, in a single day, 76,600 vehicles in 28 states passed school buses illegally, while the buses were stopped, flashing their stop lights and displaying their stop signs, according to a 2011 survey by the National Association of State Directors of Pupil Transportation Services (NASDPTS).

WHEREAS, the NASDPTS estimates 13 million vehicles pass school buses illegally in a typical 180-day school year, putting children in serious danger.

WHEREAS, the National Association of Pupil Transportation finds the illegal passing of stopped school buses unnecessarily exposes our children to the risk of injury and death, and that it must be eliminated through standardized penalties, simpler enforcement and penalties, and great public education efforts.

WHEREAS, a NHTSA survey found 82% of drivers agree automated photo enforcement would be a “good idea” to identify vehicles that illegally pass school buses.

WHEREAS, school bus safety cameras enable bus drivers to focus on the road and on children to secure their safety rather than monitoring the actions of reckless drivers.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors strongly supports the use of school bus safety cameras to help reduce the number of vehicles that pass school buses illegally.

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 for the safety of all road users, especially children.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Conference of Mayors encourages Mayors and other elected officials to consider all options when addressing the issue of vehicles that pass school buses illegally, including education and enforcement.

SUPPORTING THE CDC HEALTHY HOMES AND LEAD POISONING PREVENTION PROGRAM

WHEREAS, approximately 450,000 children aged one to five have blood lead levels above the reference level recommended by the Advisory Committee for Childhood Lead Poisoning and Prevention and the CDC and need services to help reduce their exposure; and

WHEREAS, by eliminating the outdated ‘level of concern’ for blood lead level and moving towards primary prevention models, the CDC acknowledges that 365,000 more children than had previously been reported need services to address blood lead levels; and

WHEREAS, the CDC Healthy Homes and Lead Poisoning Prevention Program funds 35 states and localities to educate the public, train health-care providers and public health officials, screen children for lead poisoning, inspect homes, ensure lead-poisoned infants and children receive medical and environmental follow-up, track surveillance data, and support enforcement and case management activities for lead poisoned children; and

WHEREAS, the CDC Healthy Homes and Lead Poisoning Prevention Program served 850,000 children in the last ten years, reduced by 200,000 the number of children who have been exposed to lead in the last 3 years—saving \$7.5 billion in lifetime productivity, and tested more than four million children and conducted case management for nearly 30,000 children last year; and

WHEREAS, the CDC Healthy Homes and Lead Poisoning Prevention Program plays a critical role in targeting other Federal investment in the remediation of lead hazards such as the HUD Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes Initiative programs; and

WHEREAS, lead poisoning prevention activities are cost-effective for cities, with every dollar invested in lead paint hazard control resulting in a return of \$17–\$221 due to prevention of health care costs, cognitive and behavioral impairment, reduction of IQ, need for special education services, reduction in lifetime earnings, and reduction in propensity to engage in violent criminal activity; and

WHEREAS, the cut from FY2010 appropriations of \$34.9 million to the FY2011 level of \$29.3 million eliminated cities from being eligible for direct cooperative agreements, constraining cities with the greatest need to only work through the state programs; and

WHEREAS, in FY2012, the Program was cut 93% to \$1.995 million, eliminating all state cooperative agreements and Federal funding for local lead programs; and

WHEREAS, in the face of the severe cut, all state lead poisoning prevention programs were notified by the CDC that cooperative agreements would end September 1, 2012, crippling local city lead prevention efforts; and

WHEREAS, the President's FY2013 budget proposal calls for a Healthy Homes and Community Environments program combining lead and asthma, with total funding of only \$27.3 million, \$29.4 million below the FY2011 level of both programs and \$38.4 million below the FY2010 level of both programs when cities were eligible for cooperative agreements, and anticipating on 15 state cooperative agreements;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on Congress and to fund the CDC Healthy Homes and Lead Poisoning Program at least at \$50 million, allowing cities to be eligible for direct cooperative agreements and accounting for the greater number of children needed services based on the new reference levels; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on the Administration to provide bridge funding to keep the critical CDC Healthy Homes and Lead Poisoning Prevention program running until the FY2013 budget is set.

ENDORISING EFFORTS TO REPLICATE IN OTHER CITIES INITIATIVES MODELED AFTER THE LET’S GET HEALTHY CALIFORNIA TASK FORCE, WHICH WILL DEVELOP A 10-YEAR PLAN FOR IMPROVING THE HEALTH OF CALIFORNIANS THROUGH A SUSTAINED EFFORT TO PROMOTE PREVENTION AND WELLNESS STRATEGIES AND REDUCE THE BURDEN OF CHRONIC DISEASE THAT IS CRIPPLING LOCAL AND STATE HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS.

WHEREAS, a recent study from the American Journal of Preventive Medicine that was presented at the Center for Disease Control & Prevention’s ‘Weight of the Nation’ conference projects that 42 percent of Americans will be obese by 2030, which represents a significant increase from 2010 when 36 percent of the country was obese; and,

WHEREAS, a rise in obesity means a parallel increase in health care spending on the local, state and federal levels; and,

WHEREAS, if obesity rates increase to these projected levels, the U.S. faces an increase of nearly \$550 billion in weight-related medical costs, as studies have shown that a significant portion of the increase in health care spending is attributable to obesity; and,

WHEREAS, Diabetes, especially Type 2 Diabetes, is on the rise throughout the U.S. illustrating the need for a national strategy rooted at the local level to head off an explosion in the disease that will negatively affect millions of Americans and further drive up healthcare costs; and,

WHEREAS, spending on diabetic or pre-diabetic patients already totals \$206 billion each year, according to a report by a team of experts from UnitedHealth; and,

WHEREAS, it is projected that as diabetes rapidly becomes more common, the cost could grow to \$512 billion each year by 2021; and,

WHEREAS, it is projected that 15.4 percent of American adults may have diabetes in 2021, an increase of more than 30 percent, and that an additional 38 percent, or 100 million people, will be pre-diabetic in 2021; and,

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of California in partnership with SEIU-United Healthcare Workers West and The California Endowment has called for the formation of the Let’s Get Healthy California Task Force, also supported by the California Hospital Association and Kaiser Permanente, that will “develop a 10-year plan for improving the health of all Californians, controlling health care costs, promoting personal responsibility for individual health, and advancing health equity by establishing baselines for key health indicators, identifying obstacles to better care, making fiscally prudent recommendations, and establishing a framework for measuring improvements”; and

WHEREAS, all cities have a stake in making the healthcare system more cost-effective and efficient, and everyone, including doctors, hospitals, healthcare workers, employers, insurance companies, and patients themselves, can contribute to improving quality and reducing costs; and

WHEREAS, preventable and chronic health conditions are detrimental to every citizen's quality of life, cause disproportionate social and economic burdens, and result in spending, on average, 80% of a state's total healthcare dollars on just 20% of the population; and

WHEREAS, cities are uniquely positioned to bring together the talent, resources, experience, and innovations of their healthcare workforce, diverse communities, employers, technology and healthcare industries, community-based organizations, organized labor, foundations and others, to develop a plan to reduce the burden of disease and improve the health of all Americans; and

WHEREAS, all cities and states are suffering from increased rates of chronic disease causing a burden on health systems and impacting local and state budgets as well as their current and future workforce productivity and economic vitality; and,

WHEREAS, all cities and states can benefit from a statewide strategy for collecting, prioritizing, and sharing information on the incidence and treatment of chronic disease to help people make informed decisions about their own health and healthcare; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors encourages local governments to work closely with state governments, healthcare workers, employers, insurance companies, health care industries, universities, organized labor, community-based organizations and foundation partners to:

- Establish Let's Get Healthy Task Forces in cities across the country in order to set goals for reducing the incidence of chronic disease in our cities that will lessen the growing burden on our health care system and, thereby, strengthen economic vitality and workforce productivity.
- Advocate for and champion a partnership model between local, regional, state and federal government to galvanize and share expertise, lessons learned and plans for reducing chronic disease and providing models for citizens to live healthier.
- Develop and coordinate powerful messages that help educate residents about why healthy prevention strategies and regular health screenings are so important to protecting their own health and preventing spiraling healthcare costs.
- Identify, seek alignment, and leverage strategic initiatives within cities, such as food policy and neighborhood councils, fitness and recreation programs and joint use projects that promote effective prevention strategies to improve the health status of our communities.

- Utilize city facilities such as libraries and parks as de facto “public health centers” to help spread these health messages to the public and to conduct health screenings and health fairs.
- Position cities as hubs for information-sharing by foundations and others engaged in efforts surrounding Let’s Get Healthy initiatives across the country.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING COMMITTEE

SUPPORT FOR CDBG AND HOME FUNDING

WHEREAS, CDBG and HOME are the workhorses at the local level; providing vital funding and control to communities to address local needs in the areas of economic development, decent housing, and vital public services.

WHEREAS, nearly 1,200 communities rely on CDBG as a direct source of annual funding.

WHEREAS, an estimated 7,250 local governments nationally have access to CDBG funds; reaching rural, urban, and suburban areas.

WHEREAS, over 600 communities rely on HOME as a direct annual source of funding.

WHEREAS, an estimated 3,000 local governments nationally have access to HOME funds.

WHEREAS, both programs have been sharply cut in the last two years: CDBG by nearly \$1 billion and HOME by over \$800 million.

WHEREAS, the communities eligible to receive CDBG and HOME funding continue to increase as does the unmet need for these programs at the local level.

WHEREAS, both programs generate other resources and add to the local economy.

WHEREAS, every \$1.00 of CDBG funding invested in a project another \$3.55 is leveraged from other sources.

WHEREAS, since its inception in 1974, CDBG has leveraged nearly \$400 billion in other resources for community development and affordable housing.

WHEREAS, for every \$1.00 of HOME another \$4.00 is leveraged.

WHEREAS, since its inception, the HOME program has leveraged over \$88 billion in other funds for affordable housing.

WHEREAS, over the last decade, CDBG economic activities have directly created or retained more than 334,000 permanent jobs and sustained an additional 861,000 jobs.

WHEREAS, in the last decade, CDBG has rehabilitated more than 1.426 million homes for low- and moderate-income homeowners and renters.

WHEREAS, CDBG-funded infrastructure projects have affected the lives of more than 49.8 million Americans by providing a suitable living environment that includes sanitary water and sewer systems, safe streets and transit-ways, improved drainage systems, and other improvements that support our communities and help grow local economies.

WHEREAS, HOME funding has assisted local communities in completing over one million units of affordable housing nationwide, including:

- The completion of over 400,000 affordable rental units
- The rehabilitation of over 200,000 owner-occupied homes
- The completion of over 400,000 units for new homebuyers
- Provided direct rental assistance to over 250,000 persons
- In the last five years, of households occupying HOME-assisted rental units, at least 47% were extremely low income (at or below 30% of area median income) and another 38% very low-income (income less than 50% of area median income but greater than 30%)
- \$1.6 billion in HOME funds will create or preserve approximately 28,600 jobs

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors calls upon Congress to support our recommendation of \$3.3 billion for CDBG formula grants and \$1.6 billion for HOME formula grants in FY13 to help communities nationwide continue to provide vital programs and services to low-income persons.

THEREFORE BE IT ALSO RESOLVED that cities have been charged with the cost associated with the ongoing administration of the CDBG and HOME programs. We, therefore, request congress to continue funding administrative costs at the historic level of 20%.

IN SUPPORT OF THE HUD SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development implemented the Sustainable Communities initiative in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to create strong, sustainable communities by connecting housing to jobs, fostering local innovation, and helping to build a clean energy economy; and

WHEREAS, the Sustainable Communities partnership between HUD, EPA, and DOT has integrated metropolitan transportation, housing, land use and energy planning and awarded grants to develop communities that are affordable, sustainable, accessible, and inclusive; and

WHEREAS, the Sustainable Communities Initiative has implemented energy efficient programs in low-income housing units to save a total of \$6 billion in nationwide energy costs annually; and

WHEREAS, the Sustainable Communities Initiative has awarded Challenge Grants to enhance local capacities to form multi-jurisdictional partnerships and to undertake regional planning initiatives to attain sufficient expertise and funding for planning sustainable communities; and

WHEREAS, the success of the program is demonstrated by the overwhelming number of applications HUD has received for it when program funding is available and the extent to which the Sustainable Communities concept is being adopted by other agencies; and

WHEREAS, the Sustainable Communities Initiative did not receive funding in Fiscal Year (FY) 2012 to coordinate federal housing and transportation investments with local land use decisions in order to reduce transportation costs for families, improve housing affordability, save energy, and increase access to housing and employment opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development approved a restoration of \$50 million in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2013 spending bill for the Sustainable Communities Initiative to continue to carry out its mission that is of great benefit to so many underserved Americans; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on Congress and the Administration to appropriate sufficient funding for HUD's Sustainable Communities Initiative in FY 2013 and maintain level funding in future years.

SUPPORTING MUNICIPAL ORDINANCES CONFRONTING VACANCIES AND NUISANCE HOUSES DUE TO THE FORECLOSURE CRISIS

WHEREAS, police and fire protection, clean-up of debris, court actions, unpaid water bills and, possibly, demolition associated with vacancies or nuisance properties can cost municipalities up to an estimated \$30,000 for each single property, according to a study of foreclosure costs by Neighborworks America; and,

WHEREAS, mortgage-related foreclosures have resulted in an unprecedented number of not-for-sale, long-term, inadequately maintained vacant properties that contribute to an increase in crime, decrease in neighboring property value, and stalling of the retail housing market; and,

WHEREAS, today, one out of every ten homeowners is seriously delinquent (90 days or more past due on their mortgage payments) or in foreclosure; and,

WHEREAS, according to a 2010 survey conducted by the U.S. Conference of Mayors, there are an average of 2,247 abandoned residential properties resulting from the mortgage foreclosure crisis per city, with some larger cities reporting over 10,000 such properties in their jurisdiction; and,

WHEREAS, in that same survey, seventy-one percent of the survey cities reported that the mortgage foreclosure crisis has affected their approach to managing and disposing of vacant and abandoned properties; and,

WHEREAS, due to financial institutions' lack of locally-based property preservation programs, cities across the country are struggling to maintain information on the identities of those who have financial interest in vacant properties which are currently in the foreclosure process; and,

WHEREAS, national property preservation programs that are responsible for managing vacant properties are overwhelmed and lack the coordination to address the local code violations and public safety hazards they pose to communities across the country,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors supports the efforts of mayors across the country to implement city ordinances in order to address this issue, and to maintain public safety, property values, and livability within their communities, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors calls upon Congress to investigate to what end financial institutions are moving to address these concerns and provide assistance to municipalities who bear the brunt of the financial and public safety burdens associated with vacant, nuisance properties going through the foreclosure process.

IN SUPPORT OF PROJECT REBUILD

WHEREAS, commercial and residential properties which were foreclosed during and before the great recession continue to blight neighborhoods and communities throughout the country; and

WHEREAS, HUD administered the Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) from 2008 to 2010 in three rounds, which distributed nearly \$7 billion, supported an estimated 88 thousand jobs, completed nearly 50,000 units of affordable housing, and demolished nearly 25,000 blighted properties in some of the hardest-hit neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, in order to build on the success of NSP, President Obama included Project Rebuild in his FY13 budget proposal, a \$15 billion program designed to purchase, rehabilitate, and/or redevelop foreclosed, abandoned, demolished, or vacant properties; and

WHEREAS, Project Rebuild would support an estimated 191,000 jobs and treat at least 150,000 properties across all 50 states; and

WHEREAS, up to thirty percent of the funds would be eligible for use on commercial properties;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors supports inclusion of the President's proposed Project Rebuild initiative in the final federal budget for FY13.

CALLING ON CONGRESS AND THE ADMINISTRATION TO SUPPORT RESIDENTIAL/COMMERCIAL 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, 28 states plus the District of Columbia have provided local governments with the authority to develop PACE programs; and

WHEREAS, dozens of local governments throughout the country have already launched or are in the process of launching PACE programs to fund energy improvements on commercial buildings; 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 (FHFA) and the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency on July 6, 2010 issued

statements that immediately forced existing residential PACE programs to halt operations and froze the development of dozens of PACE programs nationwide; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. District Court in Oakland, California on January 20, 2012 ruled that FHFA's actions improperly bypassed the rulemaking process and ordered the agency to undertake a formal rulemaking process; and

WHEREAS, FHFA has closed comments on the rulemaking process but has not yet promulgated a new rule on this issue,

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.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors encourages mayors to consider implementing commercial PACE programs, which are unaffected by FHFA's actions and provide owners of commercial buildings with a new tool for financing energy efficiency improvements and realizing substantial energy savings.

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; and

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.

BE 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.

RESOLUTION TO PROMOTE THE GREENING OF THE RETAIL COMMUNITY

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.

PROMOTION OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT THROUGH THE VISITORS INDUSTRY

WHEREAS, communities throughout the United States rely on local hotel taxes to promote travel and tourism and support the local visitors industry; and

WHEREAS, local hotel taxes often fund convention and visitors bureaus, convention centers, sports arenas and sports teams; and

WHEREAS, local hotel taxes often support local cultural programs including music, film, gaming, visual arts, dance and more; and

WHEREAS, short-term rental of homes can often be subject to hotel taxes; and

WHEREAS, short-term rental of homes can provide a flexible housing stock that allows family travelers spending longer periods of time in a community a safe accommodation while contributing to the local economy; and

WHEREAS, short-term rental of homes can provide homeowners an opportunity to hold property as an investment, for a better sales market, or for future planning; and

WHEREAS, fair regulation of short-term rentals ensures greater compliance and greater receipt of local hotel taxes; and

WHEREAS, regulations of short-term rentals that establish a reliable way for a municipality to identify and contact the short-term rental owner, make the tax collection and remittance obligation clear and treat the short-term rental owner the same as long-term rental owners can achieve the highest level of compliance; and

WHEREAS, onerous regulations of short-term rentals can drive the industry underground, thus evading local regulations and local hotel taxes;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges support for economic development opportunities through the visitors industry by encouraging regulations of the short-term rental industry that (1) establish a reliable way for the municipality to identify and contact the short-term rental owner; (2) make the tax collection and remittance obligations clear to the short-term rental owner; and (3) treat short-term rental tenants the same as long-term rental tenants. Regulations that accomplish all three can achieve a high level of compliance, and are highly effective.

SUPPORTING SEARCHING OUT SOLUTIONS: CONSTRUCTIVE ALTERNATIVES TO THE CRIMINALIZATION OF HOMELESSNESS

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

WHEREAS, membership of the United States Conference of Mayors have endorsed Opening Doors: the Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness in 2010 and Opening Doors Across America in 2011; and

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

WHEREAS, leadership at all levels is needed to inspire and energize Americans to commit to the vision of preventing and ending homelessness among families with children, youth, Veterans, and individuals; and

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

WHEREAS, policies and laws that look to address street homelessness and behaviors associated with being homeless are costly and consume substantial local resources; and

WHEREAS, USICH in partnership with the Department of Justice with the support of the Department of Housing and Urban Development hosted a summit that involved community stakeholders from communities around the country which included city and county government officials, police officers, business improvement district leaders, court officials, health providers, Continuum of Care representatives, national advocates, federal partners, and men and women who have experienced homelessness who made recommendations on alternatives to laws that criminalize homelessness; and

WHEREAS, this summit produced a report "Searching Out Solutions: Constructive Alternatives to the Criminalization of Homelessness" that highlights solutions already being implemented in communities across the country and are replicable and can be relatively inexpensive to implement, which result in overall cost-savings, and have a lasting positive impact on the quality of life for individuals experiencing homelessness and the larger community; and

WHEREAS, cities are seeking smart solutions and therefore can only afford to invest in programs that work rather than spend money on activities that are unlikely to achieve the desired result; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors commends USICH for the development of “Searching Out Solutions”; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that U.S. Conference of Mayors affirms the value of USICH commends its initiatives to support mayors as they work to end homelessness in their cities and urges its members to review and adopt the recommendations in the report meet the needs of the larger community as a whole while also enhancing progress on efforts to end homelessness.

CRIMINAL AND SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

PUBLIC SAFETY FIRST

WHEREAS, in 1994 Congress passed the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act, and authorized the expenditure of \$8.8 billion over six years through the newly created Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) within the United States Department of Justice; and

WHEREAS, between 1995 and 2002 approximately \$1 billion was annually appropriated to the COPS office for the creation of law enforcement jobs and the creation of law enforcement initiatives; and

WHEREAS, in Fiscal Year 2009, the COPS Office was appropriated over \$1 billion to fund the hiring, re-hiring and retention of nearly 5,000 law enforcement positions; and

WHEREAS, the COPS Office was appropriated only \$243 million in Fiscal Year 2011 and \$111 million in Fiscal Year 2012 for COPS hiring grants; and

WHEREAS, since it was established the COPS Office has funded over 123,000 officers and deputies; and

WHEREAS, the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (Byrne JAG) provides local governments, states and tribes with critical funding necessary to support a range of program areas including law enforcement, prosecution and courts, crime prevention and education, corrections and community corrections, drug treatment and enforcement, planning, evaluation, technology improvement, and crime victim and witness initiatives; and

WHEREAS, local police departments are able to use the flexible funding which Byrne JAG provides to address their greatest needs, fill gaps, and test emerging and evidence-based approaches to local public safety challenges; and

WHEREAS, in 2001 Congress passed the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act in which it created the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) Program, which is administered by the Department of Homeland Security; and

WHEREAS, the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) Program is designed to provide federal grants directly to local fire departments and Emergency Medical Services organizations to help address a variety of equipment, trainings and other firefighter-related needs; and

WHEREAS, in 2004, in response to concerns over the adequacy of firefighting staffing, Congress enacted the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Act as part of the 2004 National Defense Authorization Act; and

WHEREAS, the SAFER grants, which are administered by the Department of Homeland Security, are designed to improve and/or restore local fire departments' staffing and deployment capabilities in order to more effectively respond to emergencies, lower response times, and ensure personnel are appropriately trained for emergency scenes; and

WHEREAS, the priorities for the 2011 SAFER grant are to rehire laid-off firefighters, retain firefighters who may be laid off and to fill firefighter positions that were not filled due to economic factors; and

WHEREAS, since 2001, the AFG Program has awarded nearly \$6 billion in grants and since 2005 the SAFER grant has awarded over \$1.8 billion in grants to fire departments around the United States; and

WHEREAS, the grants awarded through the COPS office, Byrne JAG, AFG, and SAFER programs provide valuable assistance in ensuring public safety throughout the nation and have the overwhelming support of the nation's Mayors; and

WHEREAS, the economic downturn has resulted in many municipalities having to cut police services, and many of those municipalities have seen a rise in their crime rate; and

WHEREAS, the economic downturn has resulted in many municipalities having to cut firefighting services, and many of those municipalities have seen a rise in their fire and emergency services response times; and

WHEREAS, dedicating resources to maintaining and replenishing public safety departments in the nation's cities will act as a catalyst for economic growth;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors reaffirms its strong support for the COPS, Byrne Jag, AFG and SAFER federal grant programs, which support the nation's police and fire services; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress in setting federal budget priorities for Fiscal Year 2013, to place public safety first and increase funding for these four programs which are so critical to the safety of our cities.

ADEQUATE SUPPORT FOR SECOND CHANCE PROGRAMS

WHEREAS, the Second Chance Act Prisoner Reentry Program helps to ensure the successful reentry of prisoners to their communities by assisting state and local governments to work in partnership with nonprofit organizations to establish prisoner reentry programs that aid in preventing recidivism and homelessness by providing: education, vocational training, job placement, and housing that is permanent, affordable and linked to health, mental health, employment, and other support services that provide long-term, community-based housing options; and

WHEREAS, through the Second Chance Act these comprehensive, coordinated reentry services are targeted toward the populations most in need, helping to break the vicious cycle of recidivism and reduce the financial burden on our local and state criminal justice systems; and

WHEREAS, evidence-based reentry programs, like those supported by the Second Chance Act, promote safer communities, stronger families, and smarter fiscal policies as they facilitate the often difficult transition from prison to the community, not only reducing crime, but saving taxpayer dollars; and

WHEREAS, in 2010, over 700,000 individuals were released from state and federal prisons, an increase of 20 percent from 2000, and without support, four in 10 of these individuals are expected to be re-incarcerated within three years; and

WHEREAS, funding for Second Chance programs has been significantly reduced in recent years;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the United States Conference of Mayors urges Congress to provide funding for Second Chance programs at a level sufficient to meet the need for this important program.

REDUCING AND RESPONDING TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT

WHEREAS, domestic violence remains one of the most pervasive crimes in the United States, in that 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; intimate partner violence made up 20 percent of all non-fatal violent crime experienced by women; 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, rape and sexual assault continue to be pervasive crimes that are perpetually under-reported and under-prosecuted in that approximately 2.3 million people each year are raped and/or physically assaulted by a current or former partner; nearly one in five women report that they have been victims of rape; nearly two-thirds of all rapes are committed by someone known to the victim; approximately 60 percent of rapes committed are not reported to the police; one of every four reported rapes leads to an arrest; one of every four arrests leads to a felony conviction and incarceration; and

WHEREAS, in 2012 the Department of Justice announced revisions to the Uniform Crime Report's (UCR) definition of rape; the revised definition is likely to result in a more comprehensive statistical reporting of rape; the UCR will be more inclusive of the scope and volume of these crimes; and the U.S. Conference of Mayor's supports this revised definition and the effort to include all rapes in the statistical reporting of this crime; and

WHEREAS, the economic impact of these crimes to society and to individuals is tremendous, in that the cost of intimate partner violence annually exceeds \$5.8 billion, including \$4.1 billion in direct health care expenses; and victims of sexual assault are three times more likely to suffer from depression, six times more likely to suffer from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, 13 times more likely to abuse alcohol, 26 times more likely to abuse drugs, and four times more likely to contemplate suicide; and

WHEREAS, additional resources are needed to address these crimes in that 14 percent of all unsolved homicides and 18 percent of unsolved rapes contained evidence that was not submitted by law enforcement agencies to crime labs for analysis; only four out of 10 law enforcement agencies have a computerized system for tracking forensic evidence either in their inventory or after it is sent to the crime lab; and policies and practices for evidence retention vary widely from jurisdiction to jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, national studies have shown that cases in which a rape kit was collected and tested are more likely to result in prosecution and conviction; and

WHEREAS, according to recent studies there is still an estimated 180,000 to 400,000 untested rape kits in the United States; and

WHEREAS, there are steps that law enforcement agencies, forensic laboratories and prosecutors can take to improve the use of forensic evidence, including increased training for law enforcement on the benefits and use of forensic evidence and guidelines for prioritizing cases for analysis; development of protocols to ensure timely submission of evidence to the lab; and standardized policies for evidence retention; and

WHEREAS, training law enforcement on topics related to Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault will provide all officers with the skills necessary to appropriately respond to and process evidence from these crimes; and

WHEREAS, jurisdictions that have introduced pro-active protocols and training, and timely testing of forensic evidence, have experienced an increase in the number of cases reported to law enforcement, and an increase in prosecutions; and

WHEREAS, the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), enacted in 1994, recognizes the insidious and pervasive nature of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking and supports comprehensive, effective and cost saving responses to these crimes; VAWA programs, administered by the Departments of Justice and Health and Human Services, give law enforcement, prosecutors and judges the tools needed to hold offenders accountable and keep communities safe while supporting victims; and recertification of the Act is currently being debated; and

WHEREAS, legislation passed by the House to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act would roll back confidentiality protections that enable undocumented women to safely come forward and report violent crimes; and

WHEREAS, the designation of October as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, February as Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month, and the annual designation of a day in April as Denim Day, are all important public awareness campaigns that seek to inform the public and law enforcement about the critical nature of these crimes, the need for more attention and resources to these cases, and the importance of public support for the investment of more resources,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors supports the Reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors supports provisions in the Violence Against Women Act reauthorization that would provide additional ways for law enforcement to work with undocumented victims to investigate and prosecute serious crimes and allow the Department of Homeland Security to draw from a pool of previously authorized but never used U visas so that law enforcement officers have the tools to work with victims and bring violent offenders to justice; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors encourages cities, counties and states to support the dedication of resources to DNA testing in Domestic Violence and/or Sexual Assault cases, and the complete elimination of DNA rape kit backlogs that exist around the nation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors supports increased funding for prevention programs and sexual assault and domestic violence awareness programs; 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 in responding to Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault cases and processing DNA evidence related to these crimes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors supports the efforts of states and local government to test every rape kit, regardless of the age of the case; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors supports the designation of October as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, February as Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month, and the annual designation of a day in April as Denim Day, as vital aspects of a public awareness campaign aimed at addressing domestic violence, sexual assault, and crimes against women.

REGARDING THE TRAFFICKING OF MINORS

WHEREAS, human trafficking remains a daunting challenge to governments and communities across America and the world; and

WHEREAS, according to studies by the University of Pennsylvania and Shared Hope International, children numbering in the hundreds of thousands are trafficked for the purpose of commercial sexual exploitation in cities throughout America; and

WHEREAS, human trafficking victims are often not identified as trafficking victims or are often mischaracterized as criminal offenders; and

WHEREAS, among those are victims brought into the United States under false pretenses, and coerced into commercial sexual exploitation; and

WHEREAS, according to the Children Community Intervention Project, here in the United States, the average age of first exploitation through prostitution is 13, and 75 percent of minors exploited through prostitution have a pimp; and

WHEREAS, the advent of the Internet has made the sex trafficking of minors easier for those who sell children for sex; and

WHEREAS, the people who exploit these children for their own profit regularly use online classified advertisements as a way to offer children for sale in cities across an entire region, simultaneously; and

WHEREAS, the most prominent of these classified services, Backpage.com, owned by the Village Voice Media corporation, operates hundreds of classified services in cities and towns in all 50 states; and

WHEREAS, across the United States, local papers and websites link to Backpage.com, and other like classified service providers that create additional avenues for the commercial sexual exploitation of minors; and

WHEREAS, despite the documented evidence of numerous cases of children being trafficked on Backpage.com, the service's parent company has repeatedly refused to institute measures that would effectively address the issue of the sex trafficking of minors; and

WHEREAS, in response, the City of Seattle ceased advertising in the *Seattle Weekly*, a publication owned by Village Voice Media; and

WHEREAS, the State of Washington recently created a new law that makes advertising the commercial sexual abuse of a minor a felony offense, and requires advertisers to verify the age of the person being advertised; and

WHEREAS, Connecticut and other states have recently introduced similar legislation;
and

WHEREAS, a wide range of Americans, from elected officials and advocates to
journalists and clergy, has called on Backpage.com and other classified services to
change their practices,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of
Mayors calls on Backpage.com and other classified services nationwide to implement in
person age verification and end the sale of children through their services; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors calls on
Congress, state legislatures, and local elected bodies to pass legislation to address
commercial advertising over the Internet for sexual abuse of minors.

OPPOSING STAND YOUR GROUND LAWS AND FEDERAL LEGISLATION THAT WOULD FORCE RECIPROCITY FOR CONCEALED CARRY HANDGUN PERMITS

WHEREAS, as the tragic shooting of Trayvon Martin in Sanford, Florida, has brought significant national attention to the proliferation so-called “Stand Your Ground” or “Shoot First” laws in states, with 25 states having broad “shoot first” laws that allow the use of deadly force in self-defense outside the home with no duty to retreat;

WHEREAS, Florida’s law, enacted in 2005, allows a person to lethally shoot someone whenever they feel threatened, even if they could have safely walked away from the scene, as long as the shooter is in a place “he or she has a right to be;” and

WHEREAS, such “shoot first” laws, are an expansion of Castle Doctrine laws, which allow the use of force, including deadly force, for self-defense in one’s home, with the burden generally falling on the defendant to prove that his or her use of deadly force was reasonable; and

WHEREAS, “Shoot First” or “Stand Your Ground” laws expand the Castle Doctrine by presuming the use of deadly force was reasonable; placing the burden on a prosecutor to prove otherwise; expand the use of deadly force for self-defense beyond the home, including vehicles and – in many states – public places; permit the use of deadly force in more circumstances, including when there is no imminent danger; eliminate the duty to retreat before using deadly force, even if retreat can be accomplished safely; and immunize the shooter from criminal prosecution and civil liability;

WHEREAS, this expansion violates the principles of the Castle Doctrine, which dates back to English Common Law, that guided the American colonies and the Founding Fathers, and stands for the principle for the inviolate place of refuge that is the home, and should be reversed; and

WHEREAS, according to Federal Bureau of Investigation data, justifiable homicide cases have increased significantly – in some cases by more 100 percent – in several states in the years after they passed “shoot first” laws; and

WHEREAS, the American Legislative Exchange Council based its model legislation on Florida’s “Stand Your Ground” law and, until recently used that model legislation to encourage state legislatures to adopt stand your ground laws; and

WHEREAS, the National Rifle Association continues to encourage state legislatures to adopt “stand your ground” legislation, issuing a statement May, 2012 that “ The National Rifle Association always has and always will advocate the passage and preservation of self-defense laws;” and

WHEREAS, on April 11, 2012, New York City Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg, leaders of national African-American organizations and others announced a new national

grassroots campaign, “Second Chance on Shoot First,” to repeal or reform the Florida-style “shoot first” laws that have passed in 25 states by focusing on convincing state legislators who have supported shoot first laws to join the growing movement to reform or repeal these dangerous laws; and

WHEREAS, despite a history of violent behavior, the alleged shooter of Trayvon Martin, George Zimmerman, has a valid permit to carry a hidden, loaded gun, and Florida state officials had no authority to revoke or suspend it, either before or after the shooting occurred; and

WHEREAS, unlike Florida, at least 24 states give police discretion to deny a concealed carry permit if the applicant has an arrest record or pattern of violent behavior that indicates that he or she would be a safety threat to others; and

WHEREAS, just days after Trayvon Martin was shot and killed, legislation was introduced in the Senate that would allow George Zimmerman, and others like him, to carry hidden, loaded guns nationwide by forcing each state to honor concealed carry permits from every other state, even if the permit holder would otherwise not be allowed to carry or even possess a gun in the state where he or she is traveling,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors registers its strong opposition to “Stand Your Ground” or “Shoot First” laws; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges state legislatures which have adopted such laws to repeal them and pledges to work with the “Second Chance on Shoot First” campaign to accomplish this; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors opposes any federal legislation that would override local public safety and licensing decisions and force states to allow non-residents to carry concealed, loaded weapons in their communities – even if they would not qualify for a permit under local law.

IN SUPPORT OF THE FIX GUN CHECKS ACT OF 2012

WHEREAS, the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) is an effective tool to keep guns out of the hands of criminals and other dangerous individuals, and this system has blocked 1.9 million illegal gun purchases and permit applications in the past two decades; and

WHEREAS, despite this success, the system is undermined by legal loopholes and missing records that enable too many dangerous individuals to obtain weapons they later use in crimes; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that state and federal agencies have failed to report more than one million records of persons with dangerous mental illness into the NICS database; and

WHEREAS, under federal law licensed gun dealers are mandated to conduct NICS checks before proceeding with a sale, but in most states this requirement does not apply to so-called private sellers who are present in large numbers at gun shows and sell guns over the internet; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that private transactions account for 40 percent of U.S. gun sales, and undercover investigations have shown that many private sellers at gun shows and online will proceed with sales even when they are made aware that prospective purchasers cannot pass a background check; and

WHEREAS, more than 12,000 Americans are murdered with guns every year, and the overwhelming majority of these crimes are committed by individuals who are barred from purchasing or possessing guns under federal law; and

WHEREAS, on April 16, 2007, Seung-Hui Cho shot and killed 32 people at Virginia Tech with guns that were legally purchased because records of his mental health status were missing from NICS; and

WHEREAS, in the wake of the Virginia Tech shootings, Virginia and other states have submitted hundreds of thousands of new mental health records since the massacre, yet 23 states and the District of Columbia have each submitted fewer than 100 mental health records; and

WHEREAS, tragedies including the 1999 Columbine High School shooting in Colorado, the 2010 attack on law enforcement at the Pentagon, and the 2012 mass shooting at a Pittsburgh psychiatric clinic were perpetrated by individuals who obtained guns through unregulated private sales, with no paperwork required and no questions asked; and

WHEREAS, the Fix Gun Checks Act of 2012 has been introduced in the U.S. Congress, and this legislation would address the two major flaws in the nation's gun background check system by improving compliance with federal record reporting requirements, and by requiring background checks for all U.S. gun sales; and

WHEREAS, 90 percent of Americans and 90 percent of gun owners support fixing gaps in the gun background check database, and 86 percent of Americans and 81 percent of gun owners support background checks for all gun sales; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors has been a strong advocate for common-sense policies that keep guns out of dangerous hands while respecting the rights of law-abiding gun owners, and this Conference has long called for actions to close deadly gaps in NICS; and

WHEREAS, more than 50 national organizations support closing gaps in the gun background check database and requiring a background check for all gun sales, including the U.S. Conference of Mayors, National Urban League, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence; and

WHEREAS, the Fix Gun Checks Act of 2012 is strongly supported by Mayors Against Illegal Guns, a national, bipartisan coalition of more than 650 mayors, who represent more than 50 million Americans;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges passage of this important public safety legislation in the Congress; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors will work to push for increased reporting of mental health and other relevant records into the NICS database; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors will join with domestic violence prevention advocates, faith leaders, law enforcement officials, and other elected officials to make clear that failure to strengthen gun laws at the national level will continue to fuel gun trafficking and gun violence in big cities and small towns throughout the country.

REDUCING VIOLENT DEATHS AMONG AFRICAN AMERICAN MEN AND BOYS

WHEREAS, violence and violence-related deaths have led to a depletion of African-American males in families and communities; and

WHEREAS, homicide is the leading cause of death for African American males between the ages of 15 and 24; and

WHEREAS, according to the Special Report on Black Victims of Violent Crimes published in 2007 by the Bureau of Justice Statistics, in 2005 Blacks were victims of nearly half (49 percent) of all homicides although they account for just 13 percent of the U.S. population and 85 percent of Black homicide victims were male and 51 percent were between the ages of 17 and 19; and

WHEREAS, Cities United is a diverse coalition of mayors working in partnership with aligned organizations dedicated to reducing violent deaths among Black men and boys; and

WHEREAS, Cities United was established to bring mayors from across the country together with community leaders to create opportunities for Black men and boys to achieve their full potential and live long and productive lives; and

WHEREAS, Cities United's mission is to:

- Build national and local awareness of the epidemic of murders among Black men and boys;
- Advocate for civic engagement and commitment from every level of government and sector of society;
- Provide tools for mayors to assess the problems in their communities, the resources available, and the capacity to tackle the problems;
- Take action through policies and promising programs that build safe, vibrant and caring communities to reduce violent deaths among Black men and boys; and
- Ensure accountability through community involvement, commitment to evidence-based practices, and rigorous evaluation,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors joins with Cities United in its commitment to take action to reduce the high incidence of violent deaths among Black men and boys; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors encourages mayors to focus on prevention rather than prosecution, on intervention rather than incarceration, and to target the highest-risk neighborhoods, engaging citizens and empowering them to be part of the solution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges all levels of government, corporations, foundations, educational institutions, and citizens to work together to reduce both the opportunities for and the incidences of violence in our communities.

VIOLENCE PREVENTION

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors has previously and consistently adopted resolutions recognizing that freedom from violence is fundamental to safe and healthy communities; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Justice reported that in 2010 an estimated 3.8 million Americans age 12 or older were victims of violence; and

WHEREAS, public health approaches to violence prevention address the conditions that breed violence, and the behaviors and attitudes that perpetuate it; and

WHEREAS, by definition, public health approaches require the organized efforts and informed choices of organizations, public safety and law enforcement, communities and individuals; and

WHEREAS, CeaseFire is a public health approach to violence prevention; and

WHEREAS, a 2008 evaluation conducted by researchers at Northwestern University and funded by the U.S. Department of Justice found that CeaseFire was associated with a distinct and statistically significant reduction of shootings in the Chicago neighborhoods in which it operated; and

WHEREAS, a 2012 Center for Disease Control and Prevention funded study conducted by researchers at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health found that the CeaseFire replication site, Safe Streets, was associated with a statistically significant decline in either homicides or nonfatal shootings or both in the Baltimore neighborhoods in which it operated; and

WHEREAS, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention at the U.S. Department of Justice considers the CeaseFire approach a model program for violence prevention,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the United States Conference of Mayors affirms its support for public health approaches to violence prevention as pioneered by the CeaseFire health approach.

IN SUPPORT OF INSPIRING YOUTH THAT HAVE BEEN AFFECTED BY DRUGS AND ALCOHOL

WHEREAS, The United States Conference of Mayors has a proven commitment to supporting the development and empowerment of youth and strengthening families; and

WHEREAS, according to the 2007 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 8.3 million children live with at least one parent who abused or was dependent on alcohol or an illicit drug during the past year; and

WHEREAS, according to the Administration for Children and Families when a child has exposure to either prenatal or postnatal drug use, that child is more likely to experience depression, anxiety, psychiatric disorders, exhibit behavioral problems, and receive lower test scores; and

WHEREAS, children from homes where the parents suffer from substance abuse are more at risk to be neglected, and often need to take a larger role in caring for their parents or other siblings; and

WHEREAS, children of Alcoholics are four times as likely to become an alcoholic when compared to a child without an alcoholic as a parent; and

WHEREAS, adolescents that use drugs or alcohol are more likely to have poor academic achievement or to become involved in criminal activity; and

WHEREAS, organizations in our communities like the Mario Do Right Foundation in Baltimore provide assistance in communities by educating and inspiring youth that have been affected by substance abuse through mentoring and supportive services; and

WHEREAS, many of these non-profit organizations work hand in hand with local, state and federal partners to utilize the services and resources of their governmental partners to provide aid to youth in communities across the country; and

WHEREAS, the Drug Free Communities Support Program supports community based organizations that have been formed to help local youth substance abuse and its consequences; and

WHEREAS, data from the Drug Free Community National Evaluation indicates that middle school-aged youth in funded communities experienced a 16 percent reduction in alcohol use and a 23 percent reduction in marijuana use, while High school-aged youth have reduced their use of alcohol by 9 percent and marijuana use by 7 percent in funded communities,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors recognizes non-profit programs like the Mario Do Right Foundation for its contribution

to assist children and families affected by alcohol and substance abuse in communities across the nation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors encourages its mayors to participate in National Drug Facts week January 28 - February 3, 2013; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors further encourages its mayors to support programs which assist young people that face substance abuse in their homes; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the US Conference of Mayors supports the Drug Free Communities Support Program and further calls for an increase in funding for this program and the cadre of other programs that provide assistance to these non-profits.

RECLASSIFICATION OF MEDICAL CANNABIS TO SCHEDULE II OF THE CSA

WHEREAS, 24 states, comprising almost one-third of the U.S. population, have passed or have under consideration laws that either regulate or decriminalize the use of cannabis for medical or other purposes; and

WHEREAS, under the Controlled Substances Act (CSA), the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) has classified cannabis as a Schedule I substance, deeming it of no currently accepted medical use in treatment with a lack of accepted safety for use of the drug under medical supervision, instead of a Schedule II substance, a drug with a currently accepted medical use in treatment or a currently accepted medical use with severe restrictions; and

WHEREAS, the American Medical Association and the American College of Physicians support investigation and clinical research of cannabis for medicinal use and urged the federal government to reassess the Schedule I classification; and

WHEREAS, scientific evidence of the effectiveness of cannabis as a treatment for certain terminal or debilitating conditions is widely available, including four reviews of modern human clinical studies with cannabis and cannabinoids in the United States and elsewhere recently published in peer-reviewed publications; and

WHEREAS, in the past year, there have been numerous federal raids of locally sanctioned medical cannabis dispensaries, operating in accordance with state statutes, creating confusion about the legal status of these businesses; and

WHEREAS, the conflict between state statutes and federal regulation frustrates our citizens, costs cities significant time and resources to address, and prevents the establishment of a regulated and safe system to supply patients who may need medical cannabis; and

WHEREAS, in December of 2011, Washington State Governor Christine Gregoire and Rhode Island Governor Lincoln Chafee petitioned DEA to initiate a rulemaking for the reclassification of medical cannabis from Schedule I to Schedule II of the CSA,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors supports the Gregoire-Chafee petition and urges the DEA to initiate rulemaking proceedings for the reclassification of medical cannabis from Schedule I to Schedule II of the Controlled Substances Act (CSA) so qualifying patients who follow state law may obtain the medication they need through the traditional and safe method of physician prescribing and pharmacy dispensing.

HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT PROGRAMS

WHEREAS, in its FY 2013 budget submission the Administration proposed a major reform and consolidation of homeland security grant programs which would replace the current programs with a new National Preparedness Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, The United States Conference of Mayors has a strong body of policy which supports the current homeland security grant programs; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors and other organizations which represent local governments, first responders, and emergency managers have registered serious concerns with the proposal to convert the current suite of homeland security grant programs into state-administered block and competitive grant programs in which funding decisions are based on state and multi-state threat assessments; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Homeland Security is currently implementing the changes Congress made in the FY 2012 appropriations bill – changes which give the Department greater flexibility to focus grant programs on what it considers to be the highest priorities, while protecting program funding to the highest risk urban areas and transportation infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the Secretary of Homeland Security has reached out to mayors through the U.S. Conference of Mayors and invited the organization to work with the Department to craft improvements to the nation's homeland security programs which respond to the preparedness and response needs of cities; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges the Department of Homeland Security first to give the program changes currently being implemented at least a year to play out and evaluate them before moving ahead with the significant changes proposed in the National Preparedness Grant Program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department take advantage of the time this approach provides to work with the Conference of Mayors and other national organizations as well as Congress to develop program reforms which incorporate the successful elements of past and current programs and identify new approaches which can have broad support; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any reform proposals protect certain key programs, including the Urban Area Security Initiative and port and transportation security grants, which provide targeted funding to local areas and critical infrastructure considered to be at the highest risk; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that as it works with Congress and stakeholders, the Department use the following set of core principles developed by the Conference and other national organizations which represent local governments, first responders, and emergency managers to guide program reform:

- **Increased Transparency** – It must be clear and understandable to the federal government and the public how the states are distributing funds, why they are making these decisions, and where the funds are going.
- **Greater Local Involvement** – Local government officials, including emergency managers and emergency response officials, know best the threats and vulnerabilities in their areas. The Threat Hazard Identification Risk Assessment (THIRA) process must include the input of local elected and emergency response officials, and the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) must be able to audit states by comparing local risk assessments to the state level THIRA. Further, local governments should have the opportunity to challenge a state THIRA that inadequately reflects their needs or input.
- **Flexibility with Accountability** – Any changes to the existing federal grant programs should allow federal funding to meet individual local needs, and preparedness gaps as identified at the local level. Effective but sometimes less politically popular programs, like mitigation, must still receive funding.
- **Protect Local Funding** – Since event impact and response are primarily local in nature, grant funding should support primarily local prevention and preparedness efforts, as is the case under the current program structure. It is important that the vast majority of federal homeland security grants continue to fund local prevention and response activities, including local emergency managers and first responders, and activities that support their preparedness efforts.
- **Sustain Terrorism Prevention** - The current emphasis on supporting law enforcement's terrorism prevention activities must be maintained. The federal grant funds should not be used to support larger state bureaucracies at the expense of operational counter terrorism preparedness, threat analysis, and information sharing activities.
- **Incentives for Innate Regionalization** – FEMA's proposal focuses on states and multi-state regions (similar to the FEMA regions). The homeland security grants must also support preparedness in metropolitan intra-state and inter-state regions.

REGARDING THE NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS GRANT PROGRAM

WHEREAS, urban areas are the highest risk for terrorist attacks in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Department of Homeland Security (DHS) federal grants are critical for building and sustaining capabilities to prevent, respond and recover from acts of terrorism; and

WHEREAS, the DHS grant program must remain aligned with the 9/11 Act; and

WHEREAS, the preservation of the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) would strengthen the National Preparedness Grant Program because it would target limited resources to the highest risk urban areas; with targeted and effective funding; and

WHEREAS, the existing UASI governance framework works well and already reflects the principles of the Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA) because it has built and sustained region-wide capabilities that are cross-jurisdictional, readily deployable, and multi-purpose; and

WHEREAS, homeland security grant periods must balance the goal of efficiency with the need for flexibility; and

WHEREAS, a rigid 24-month grant period will prevent jurisdictions from undertaking innovative, multi-year projects that support long-term planning and strategic development; and

WHEREAS, Congress should seek to minimize the layers of bureaucracy involved in administering DHS grant programs as these layers create unnecessary costs and delay,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to align DHS grant program requirements with the 9/11 Act to focus on risk when assessing highest need areas, preserve UASI as a standalone grant program, and maintain the current grant cycle and flexibility for homeland security funding.

EARTHQUAKE PREPAREDNESS

WHEREAS, public awareness campaigns, preparedness exercises, and early-warning systems can assist in reducing the impact of disaster and can save lives and prevent injuries; and

WHEREAS, in 2008, a regional earthquake preparation drill called the “ShakeOut” began in Southern California as a way of involving the general public in a large-scale emergency management exercise; and

WHEREAS, by October 2011, the exercise had become known as the “Great California Shakeout” and had grown to become the largest public preparedness exercise in the United States by including over 8.5 million participants throughout the State of California, Oregon, Nevada, Oregon, Idaho, and Guam; and

WHEREAS, the ShakeOut exercise drill has now spread to other countries, including Japan, New Zealand, and Canada; and

WHEREAS, in 2011 the United States Department of Homeland Security’s Federal Emergency Management Agency created the Great Central U.S. Shakeout, that includes participants in Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri, Oklahoma and Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, in February 2012, when it held its second Great Central U.S. Shakeout, over 2.4 million participants had registered to participate in the exercise; and

WHEREAS, the Shakeout exercises involve the participation of federal, state, and local government, private industry, schools, and dozens of partners and have proven to be an effective public awareness campaign; and

WHEREAS, on August 23, 2011, a 5.8 magnitude earthquake, with an epicenter in Virginia, struck the East Coast of the United States and was felt as far north as New England and caused considerable damage; and

WHEREAS, earthquakes can strike anywhere in the United States resulting in the loss of life and property, and reacting appropriately to any earthquake is paramount to minimizing the loss of life; and

WHEREAS, the time has come to develop a national exercise program rather than a regionally-based preparedness and awareness program; and

WHEREAS, Earthquake Early Warning Systems exist and are available to provide notifications to the public in many countries, including Japan, Mexico, Taiwan, Romania, Indonesia and Turkey; and

WHEREAS, a robust Earthquake Early Warning System does not yet exist in the United States;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the United States Department of Homeland Security to expand its Shakeout exercise program to include an annual nationwide Shakeout Drill in which the entire nation participates in this “Drop, Cover, Hold On” exercise; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the federal government to invest greater resources in the development of a robust Earthquake Early Warning System in the United States.

IMPROVING EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

WHEREAS, the Federal Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act defines the 16 potential disasters that can occur in the United States, including tornado, storm, high water, wind-driven water, tidal wave, tsunami, earthquake, landslide, mudslide, drought, fire, flood, explosion, hurricane, snow storm, and volcanic eruption; and

WHEREAS, in the United States in 2011 there were 99 Disaster Declarations; 29 Emergency Declarations; and 114 Fire Management Assistance Declarations; accounting for approximately \$52 billion in damage costs; and

WHEREAS, natural and manmade disasters often cause loss of life, human suffering, property loss and damage; and

WHEREAS, disasters disrupt individuals, families, communities, and governments; and

WHEREAS, emergency preparedness is the cornerstone of survival and recovery in the event of any disaster situation; the first 48 hours immediately following such an event are vital in the ability of individuals, communities, and public entities to effectively respond to a disaster; and prepared citizens are able to alleviate the burden on first-responders in disaster situations; and

WHEREAS, September is designated National Preparedness Month by the Department of Homeland Security, focusing on preparing citizens and communities to become better prepared for and more resilient in the face of life-threatening disasters; and

WHEREAS, early-warning systems and mass emergency alert notifications for a variety of disasters can assist individuals, communities, and governments in reducing the impact of disasters and may save lives and prevent injuries; and

WHEREAS, effective collaboration between communities, businesses, and government can lead to a stronger disaster response and more seamless resource allocation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors encourages cities, counties and states to endorse the ideals of National Preparedness Month in preparing and engaging communities to prepare for disaster situations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors endorses the formation and strengthening of public-private partnerships in emergency preparedness and response; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors encourages increasing the resources available to jurisdictions for investments in disaster early-warning infrastructure.

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF TSA'S TRUSTED TRAVELER PROGRAM,
PRE✓™ AND THE BLUE RIBBON PANEL**

WHEREAS, travel and tourism supports 14.4 million jobs across the nation and generated \$1.9 trillion in economic output for the U.S. economy in 2011; and

WHEREAS, each day in the United States, roughly two million people travel by air; and

WHEREAS, implementing a key component of the Transportation Security Administration's (TSA) intelligence-driven, risk-based approach to security, TSA PRE✓™ enhances aviation security by placing more focus on pre-screening individuals who volunteer to participate in order to expedite the travel experience; and

WHEREAS, PRE✓™ has now screened over 1 million passengers,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors applauds the Department of Homeland Security and Transportation Security Administration for its intelligence-driven, risk-based approach to security and expanding PRE✓™ to an additional 28 airports in 2012; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors supports expanding enrollment opportunities in PRE✓™ to make the program accessible to more Americans, which will improve the efficiency of security screening and increase travel.

IMPROVED STAFFING AND ACCOUNTABILITY AT AIRPORT CUSTOMS FACILITIES

WHEREAS, America’s airports mean business – facilitating international trade and tourism that are critical to this nation’s economy; and

WHEREAS, the United States exported more than \$2.1 trillion in goods and services in 2011, supporting 9.7 million American jobs; and

WHEREAS, more than 60 million international tourists visited the United States in 2011 spending \$153 billion, providing employment for 7.6 million Americans, and \$1.2 trillion in economic activity; and

WHEREAS, our government and business community have launched “Brand USA,” a new tourism marketing entity that aims to increase the number of foreign visitors by encouraging them to visit the United States; and

WHEREAS, the United States Government has committed significant resources to expediting and improving the issuance of visas to increase the number of international tourists and businesspeople who can visit our country; and

WHEREAS, in the summer of 2011 our nation’s largest international airports were confronted with long lines and wait times at its international entry points, caused by reduced funding due to the global financial downturn that, in turn, lead to reduced airport staffing by federal government agencies; and

WHEREAS, our nation’s airports are working to accommodate international tourists and business people by constructing, modernizing and/or expanding the facilities used by the United States Government for processing visitors and providing airport staff to answer questions and assist passengers waiting for entry into the United States; and

WHEREAS, since the summer of 2011, the U.S. Customs and Border Protection Agency (CBP) has made significant progress in reducing wait times by increasing the amount of staff at international airports and improving deployment models;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors calls on the Federal government to further address these issues by:

- Investing additional resources in staffing for the CBP and the other agencies involved in international entry at airports
- Developing performance standards to be followed by federal agencies involved in the processing of international visitors to ensure sufficient staffing has been provided to process visitors within 30 minutes
- Providing reports on daily wait times logged in 30 and 60 minute metrics.
- Negotiating International Reciprocity Agreements to increase the number of nations participating in the Global Entry Program which expedites the processing of visitors who register for the program

- Instituting a pilot program to allow an easier process for in-transit passengers using United States airports to connect on international-to-international flights
- Requiring the CBP to install a minimum of 10 Global Entry kiosks at all large hub airports processing international flights.

BUILDING A PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS BROADBAND NETWORK

WHEREAS, last year The United States Conference of Mayors adopted policy calling for the quick passage of legislation that would reallocate the D Block of the 700MHz spectrum to public safety and the use of proceeds from other FCC spectrum auctions to offset the cost of network deployment, operation and maintenance; and

WHEREAS, that policy also called for the establishment of a national 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

WHEREAS, Title VI of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012, enacted into law on February 22, 2012, requires the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) in the U.S. Department of Commerce to establish the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet); requires FirstNet to establish a public safety broadband network based on a single, national network architecture and instructs the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to reallocate the D Block to public safety and auction the T-Band spectrum; and

WHEREAS, this legislation also requires that the current public safety T-Band spectrum be reallocated to commercial use and auctioned off within nine years of H.R. 3630's enactment, and that both commercial and public safety T-Band licensees be relocated to other spectrum within two years of that auction, and that auction proceeds be available to them to cover relocation costs; and

WHEREAS, Title VI also provides that from these auctions \$135 million is to be available for state and local planning and implementation and up to \$7 billion is to be used to construct, operate, and maintain the public safety broadband network; and

WHEREAS, officials at the FCC and NTIA are moving swiftly to implement these provisions so that they will meet the deadlines established in the legislation; and

WHEREAS, there are many questions about the role which local governments will play in the public safety broadband network, whether that network will integrate with and utilize existing public safety communications networks and equipment, and the affordability of use of the network and specialized equipment and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors supports the deployment of the Public Safety Broadband Network and calls for the First Responder Network Authority to expeditiously establish national standards and begin building the network; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the NTIA to assure that local governments and local first responders are well represented on the FirstNet Board and advisory committees; and

BE IT FURTHER RESLOVED that The United States Conference of Mayors calls on the the FCC to prioritize and make spectrum immediately available to all public safety licensees that must vacate from the T-Band spectrum, and all costs of relocating to that spectrum be covered and made available to licensees to successfully migrate without interruption; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NTIA assure that the local first responder communication needs be taken into account in the state and local planning and implementation grants and that planning and implementation activities assure that the network to be developed integrates with the existing public safety communication networks, including local narrowband communications and broadband networks under development in the jurisdictions which have been granted waivers by the FCC to deploy broadband networks in advance of the nationwide network; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that FirstNet assure that the public safety broadband network is built out it similarly takes into account the communication needs of local first responders and incorporates existing public safety communications networks; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that FirstNet assure that network user fees are affordable by local public safety organizations and that there is sufficient research and development funding to assure the affordability of equipment compatible with the network; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors calls on the First Responder Network Authority to maximize existing infrastructure to expedite both the urban and rural build out, and to seek partnerships with commercial or other entities to reduce user fees for public safety entities.

GUIDANCE FOR MOBILE SERVICES INTERRUPTION

WHEREAS, the Federal Communications Commission issued a *Public Notice* to examine when, if ever, it is appropriate for one or more wireless carriers, or their authorized agents, to interrupt their own services in an area for a limited time period at the request of a government actor, or have their own services interrupted by a government actor that exercises lawful control over network facilities; and

WHEREAS, the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) and the National Sheriffs' Association (NSA) have filed jointly with the Federal Communications Commission to address concerns and issues related to intentional interruptions of Commercial Mobile Radio Service (CMRS or wireless service) by government agencies for the purpose of ensuring public safety; and

WHEREAS, the Conference of Mayors agrees with filing of the IACP and NSA that reliable wireless services are important; local emergency police, fire or EMS response efforts rely on a vibrant E-911 where a citizen, confronting an emergency, can summon help and be located via the CMRS network; and the economic contribution of wireless services, including their convenience, is well recognized; and

WHEREAS, it is equally documented that terrorists and criminals employ wireless communications; international examples include the harm to the US military personnel in Afghanistan and Iraq by cell phone detonation of improvised explosive devices (IED) and the use of cell phones to coordinate and detonate bombs in Madrid Railway Stations; and domestic examples include concerns over cell detonated bomb fears that resulted in New York tunnel shutdowns and the fear of coordinated responses that lead to the shutdown of CMRS services in the Bay Area Regional Transit (BART) system,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors agrees with the position of IACP and NSA that a formal comment process that seeks to compile a record to form a basis of a decision will not effectively resolve this debate nor serve as a predicate to formulating a viable resolution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors calls upon the Federal Communications Commission to empanel a study group, comprised of individuals who have law enforcement and public safety responsibilities at the federal, state and local level as well as those that deploy and maintain networks to develop working guidelines; and the working group should be guided by the following recommendations in addressing this complex issue:

- As a starting point, wireless interruptions should not be readily employed;
- Significant study and reasoned discussion is needed to develop meaningful policy and operational guidelines; and
- Such guidelines must include discussion on how to promote citizen comprehension of public safety's need for occasion interruptions; and
- Any study must recognize the role of local, state and federal authorities.

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 in policy and actions 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 reaffirms its call for a comprehensive immigration policy and 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 for both security and trade purposes
- 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.

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

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 our country in the United States Armed Services; and

WHEREAS, approximately 60,000 to 70,000 undocumented students graduate from United States high schools each year without legal status making it difficult for them to attend college, acquire a job or join the military; and

WHEREAS, as a case in point, the DREAM Act would provide immigration relief to Daniela Pelaez, who has resided in Miami since she was four; graduated from North Miami Senior High School as valedictorian; applied for residency in 2010 but was denied residency while her father gained residency through her brother who serves in the United States Army and has completed a tour in Afghanistan; was ordered departed and that deportation order sparked outrage both locally and nationally, with close to three thousand students, teachers and community members protesting in her support; and since this outcry, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security has indicated that it will not carry out the deportation order during a two-year deferred action under its prosecutorial discretion; and

WHEREAS, no one benefits from the creation of an underclass that would come about as a result of denying these students the opportunity to pursue higher education and from denying hard working individuals an opportunity to compete in the global political economy; and

WHEREAS, according to the Immigration Policy Center there are 2.1 million children that 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 United States Conference of Mayors has previously gone on record in support of the DREAM Act,

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 GED, and have good moral character.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges the United States Congress to pass the Development Relief and Education for Alien Minors (Dream) Act.

URGING THE PRESIDENT TO IMMEDIATELY INSTRUCT THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY TO INITIATE A HAITIAN FAMILY REUNIFICATION PAROLE PROGRAM

WHEREAS, on June 14, 2010, the U.S. Conference of Mayors unanimously adopted Resolution No. 43 “Urging parole for all Haitian beneficiaries of approved immigrant visa petitions and expedited consideration and approval of all pending immigrant visa petitions;” and

WHEREAS, the Obama Administration’s Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has not yet implemented a Haitian Family Reunification Parole Program (FRPP) to expeditiously parole into the United States all or some of the most vulnerable and/or deserving of the now 112,000 Haitian beneficiaries of DHS-approved immigrant visa petitions; and

WHEREAS, the facts otherwise stated in Resolution No. 43 remain accurate and the need for action is more urgent than ever given still-dire conditions in Haiti; and

WHEREAS, all of the 112,000 approved Haitian beneficiaries, by definition are “legal,” will eventually join their families in the United States, but unconscionably remain on a waiting list of nearly three to 11 years in Haiti; and

WHEREAS, while waiting in Haiti, the beneficiaries may not survive, given life-threatening conditions of extreme poverty, insecurity and misery; and

WHEREAS, in 2007, the Bush Administration created a Cuban Family Reunification Parole Program under which since 2009 alone over 30,000 approved Cuban beneficiaries have been paroled; and

WHEREAS, U.S. Representative Ileana Ros-Lehtinen and Senator John Kerry, respectively chairs of the House Foreign Affairs and Senate Foreign Relations Committees, and nearly 100 other U.S. Senators and Representatives have urged DHS to create a Haitian FRPP to “mirror” the Cuban program; and

WHEREAS, at least 14 editorial boards have urged this program including the *Miami Herald*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Philadelphia Inquirer*, *Boston Globe*, *Los Angeles Times*, *San Antonio Express News*, *News day*, *Star-Ledger*, *Palm Beach Post*, and the *Washington Post*; and

WHEREAS, Haitian-American leaders nationwide have unanimously and repeatedly urged the White House to heed these calls and to instruct DHS to create a Haitian FRPP, or at least to begin expeditiously paroling into the United States all or some of the most vulnerable and deserving, beginning with all or some of the minor children and spouses of legal permanent residents whose waiting time is nearly three years in Haiti; and

WHEREAS, the White House and DHS are aware of this broad support from political, editorial, municipal, and Haitian-American leaders, but so far has failed to act,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors calls on the President and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to immediately establish a Haitian Family Reunification Parole Program.

A NATIONAL NEW AMERICANS INITIATIVE TO PROMOTE U.S. CITIZENSHIP AT THE FEDERAL, STATE, MUNICIPAL, AND COMMUNITY LEVEL

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

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors has historically recognized the economic contributions that immigrants have made by creating new jobs, developing innovative products and ideas, and connecting our economy to global markets; and

WHEREAS, the economic contributions of immigrants include over 40% of the 2010 Fortune 500 companies were founded by immigrants or their children, and immigrants are almost twice as likely to start new businesses than the native born; and

WHEREAS, immigrant-founded companies created around 450,000 jobs in under a decade, and generated an estimated \$52 billion in sales in a single year (2005); and

WHEREAS, from 1990 to 2006, the cities with the biggest increase in immigrant workers were the cities with the fastest economic growth; and

WHEREAS, a comprehensive study estimated that legal and illegal immigrants paid \$162 billion in federal, state, and local taxes in one year alone (1997); and

WHEREAS, undocumented immigrants paid \$11.2 billion in taxes in 2010 and nearly half of all undocumented immigrants pay income taxes; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors honors the contributions that immigrants have historically made to the defense of our nation, from Revolutionary War hero General Casimir Pulaski to the 68,000 immigrants serving in our armed forces today; and

WHEREAS, the process of becoming a naturalized U.S. Citizen is the ultimate expression of commitment to our United States of America; and

WHEREAS, the decision by immigrants to become a U.S. citizen involves a lengthy legal process with a 10 page application (N-400), paying a significant application fee, undergoing a full background check, learning English, studying for and passing a written and verbal exam in English on the history and government system of our democracy; and

WHEREAS, immigrants who apply for and fulfill the requirements for U.S. citizenship become naturalized at an Oath Ceremony administered by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, at which the immigrant raises their right hand and swears:

"I hereby declare, on oath, that I absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state or sovereignty, of whom or which I have heretofore been a subject or citizen; that I will support and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States of America against all enemies, foreign

*and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I will bear arms on behalf of the United States when required by the law; that I will perform noncombatant service in the armed forces of the United States when required by the law; that I will perform work of national importance under civilian direction when required by the law; and that I take this obligation freely without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; so help me Go; ."*and

WHEREAS, those immigrants who have taken the step to become U.S. citizens are more likely to have learned English and earn more than non-citizens; and

WHEREAS, of the 12,630,000 legal permanent residents (“Green Card” holders) residing in the United States, there are currently 8,070,000 legal permanent residents who have fulfilled the residency requirements and who are currently eligible to apply for U.S. citizenship; and

WHEREAS, in 2010 only 619,000 of those legal permanent residents eligible (less than eight percent) applied for U.S. citizenship; and

WHEREAS, many legal permanent residents lack the information necessary to undergo the full naturalization process, and face additional barriers of lack of education and English; and

WHEREAS, the cost of applying for citizenship has risen from \$225 in the year 2000 to \$680 in 2012 (an increase of 202 percent), and has become a significant barrier to citizenship for many working class immigrants who desire to be and who would be fine U.S. citizens, while the cost of simply renewing one’s “Green Card” status for 10 years is only \$450; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors recognizes that one of the reasons for these steep fee increases is the determination by the U.S. Congress that the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services must support their work through the fees they charge; and

WHEREAS, the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services has in recent years striven to address the barriers to U.S. citizenship by limiting further application fee increases, creating a uniform fee waiver system for disadvantaged immigrants who desire to become U.S. citizens, and creating a U.S. Citizenship Toolkit in order to assist immigrants and those who would assist them in becoming U.S. Citizens; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interests of both our nation and of the immigrants themselves for those residing upon our shores, benefitting from our freedoms, and contributing with their labor, to take the step to assume their full rights and their full responsibilities to our nation as citizens; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors recognizes that it is the responsibility of the U.S. government to set and administer the requirements of U.S. citizenship; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors affirms that in our nation we have a shared responsibility to promote full participation in our democracy, and affirms the groundbreaking efforts of states such as the “Illinois’s New Americans Initiative”, the “New York State Citizenship Initiative”, and the “Washington New Americans” campaign to fund programs to assist legal permanent residents to apply for their U.S. citizenship, and the municipal citizenship efforts by New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg, Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, and Houston Mayor Annise D. Parker; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors affirms the efforts of such organizations as the National Partnership for New Americans, the Catholic Legal Immigration Network, the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials Educational Fund, the National Immigration Forum, the Immigrant Legal Resource Center, and the American Immigration Lawyers Association to promote the value of U.S. Citizenship and the full participation in our democracy,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services to fully examine the barriers to U.S. citizenship, including the current fee structure and the possibility of reducing the cost of U.S. citizenship, and to implement policies that will make U.S. citizenship available to those legal permanent residents who desire to be and who meet the requirements of becoming U.S. citizens; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors calls for the Federal Government to launch a “New Americans Initiative” using support from multiple agencies, such as the USCIS and the Department of Education, to actively promote the value of U.S. Citizenship to our democracy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors calls for federal resources to promote U.S. citizenship, including the full funding of immigrant integration grants offered by the USCIS, funding qualified non-profits and community colleges to assist legal permanent residents with their citizenship applications; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to change its current requirement that all USCIS services (including U.S. citizenship) be funded fully from fees, and provide federal resources to support the costs of naturalization; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Mayors across this nation to initiate municipal level “New Americans Initiatives”, with public service information campaigns to promote U.S. Citizenship; work with local Community Colleges, English language programs, libraries, local elected officials, and non-profits to host citizenship workshops; and generally promote the value of full participation in our democracy, assuming full rights and responsibilities, to the 8,000,070 legal permanent residents who are eligible for citizenship.

PROVIDING PROVISIONAL STATUS ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS TO DREAM ACT-ELIGIBLE YOUNG PEOPLE

WHEREAS, 65,000 undocumented students graduate from high school each year, but live in constant fear of deportation; and

WHEREAS, despite their talent and potential to contribute to the nation and to its economy, they face bleak prospects in both employment and education because without legal status, they cannot drive or work legally and are forced to take dead-end jobs and cannot qualify for most college scholarships and loans in most states despite graduating from local high schools; and

WHEREAS, offering them a temporary legal status would help stop the colossal brain drain that occurs when ambitious young people are deported or blocked from achieving their full potential; and

WHEREAS, unleashing their talents would allow them to earn, spend and invest more in the U.S. economy at a time of increasing demand for highly skilled “knowledge workers,” which would pay enormous dividends; and

WHEREAS, the Development Relief and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act would provide a path to citizenship to high school graduates 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, the DREAM Act was first introduced in Congress more than 10 years ago and passed the House of Representatives in 2010, but failed that year in the Senate: and

WHEREAS, the DREAM Act as considered in 2010 by Congress would have cut the deficit by \$2.2 billion, according to the Congressional Budget Office;

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court, in *Heckler v. Chaney*, held that “an agency’s decision not to prosecute or enforce, whether through civil or criminal process, is a decision generally committed to an agency’s absolute discretion;” and

WHEREAS, the President has repeatedly announced that the DREAM Act beneficiaries do not fall within the Administration’s enforcement priorities, which include prosecuting and removing noncitizens who have committed serious crimes, and the Executive Branch, through the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), can decide not to prosecute a case, granting “deferred action” to removable persons; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Homeland Security, therefore, has the administrative authority to undertake an initiative to provide provisional status on a case-by-case basis to young people who would be eligible under the DREAM Act,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that until Congress passes the DREAM Act the Department of Homeland Security should create a program allowing DREAM Act eligible youth to apply for provisional status on a case-by-case basis, thus allowing immigrant youth to pursue their dreams while contributing their considerable talents to the country they love and consider home.

ENERGY COMMITTEE

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 re-utilization 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 1,050 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 (EECBG) 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 EECBG 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 EECBG program to develop and implement energy efficiency programs in their communities; and

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

WHEREAS, the 2011 “Clean Energy Solutions for America’s Cities” report commissioned by the U.S. Conference of Mayors found that 85% of cities felt that ARRA EECBG funding was important to their city’s energy efforts and 87% supported the appropriation of additional EECBG funding in future years; 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 2013, while supporting higher authorization levels in future years.

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 electric Vehicles charging stations to give potential purchasers of electric Vehicles 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 electric Vehicles on the road in the United States by 2015; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors encourages mayors to lead by example and 'green' local fleets while 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, as well as the deployment of electric charging infrastructure in communities throughout the country.

CALLING ON CONGRESS AND THE ADMINISTRATION TO SUPPORT RESIDENTIAL/COMMERCIAL 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, 28 states plus the District of Columbia have provided local governments with the authority to develop PACE programs; and

WHEREAS, dozens of local governments throughout the country have already launched or are in the process of launching PACE programs to fund energy improvements on commercial buildings; 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 (FHFA) and the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency on July 6, 2010 issued

statements that immediately forced existing residential PACE programs to halt operations and froze the development of dozens of PACE programs nationwide; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. District Court in Oakland, California on January 20, 2012 ruled that FHFA's actions improperly bypassed the rulemaking process and ordered the agency to undertake a formal rulemaking process; and

WHEREAS, FHFA has closed comments on the rulemaking process but has not yet promulgated a new rule on this issue,

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors encourages mayors to consider implementing commercial PACE programs, which are unaffected by FHFA's actions and provide owners of commercial buildings with a new tool for financing energy efficiency improvements and realizing substantial energy savings.

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

WHEREAS, The US Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) 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; and

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.

BE 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.

RESOLUTION TO PROMOTE THE GREENING OF THE RETAIL COMMUNITY

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.

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 1,050 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 7% of applicants; and

WHEREAS, current Climate Showcase Communities project that the two rounds of grants awarded by 2015 will save over \$19 million in annual energy costs, create 115 jobs, and avoid more than 350,000 metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions annually,

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 2013 and in future years.

IN SUPPORT OF THE BETTER BUILDING INITIATIVE

WHEREAS, commercial buildings consume approximately 20 percent of all energy in the U.S. economy; 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 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

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

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

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.

CALLING ON CONGRESS TO ESTABLISH A NATIONAL CLEAN ENERGY STANDARD

WHEREAS, diversifying our nation's energy portfolio decreases our reliance on individual energy sources and minimizes the impact of a disruption to our energy supply; and

WHEREAS, promoting clean energy is crucial to increasing American energy independence and enhancing national security; and

WHEREAS, clean energy has the capacity to meet America's energy needs while producing less greenhouse gas emissions than traditional energy sources; and

WHEREAS, 29 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico have already developed and implemented clean energy portfolio standards on a bipartisan basis; and

WHEREAS, President Obama has set a goal of delivering 80% of the nation's electricity from clean sources by 2035; and

WHEREAS, the lack of a national clean energy standard leaves American clean energy businesses at a disadvantage on the international market and has contributed to a growing clean energy trade deficit; and

WHEREAS, a national clean energy standard would provide the private sector with market certainty, allowing companies to invest in the development of innovative new energy technologies and leading to the creation of new, sustainable jobs in the energy sector; and

WHEREAS, over 1,050 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, the Energy Information Administration has reported that under a clean energy standard, carbon dioxide emissions from the electricity sector would decrease by an estimated 43% by 2035,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls upon Congress to pass legislation that establishes a national clean energy standard and sets concrete clean energy goals; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this clean energy standard should allow for a diverse mix of clean energy technologies, in order to account for the regional availability of energy resources and disparities between regional electricity markets; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that clean energy legislation should provide new resources for local governments to be leaders in the growing clean energy economy, including funding for local energy efficiency and renewable energy investments.

CALLING ON CONGRESS TO SUPPORT EMERGING ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES BY “GREENING” THE TAX CODE

WHEREAS, tax incentives for clean energy play a crucial role in incentivizing the development of innovative new technologies and speeding adoption of these technologies; and

WHEREAS, several important tax provisions that promote clean energy technologies, including the 25C residential energy efficiency tax credit, tax credits for manufacturers of high-efficiency appliances, tax credits for the construction of new energy efficient homes, and the 1603 grants-in-lieu-of-tax-credits, expired at the end of 2011 and have yet to be extended; and

WHEREAS, short-term tax credit extensions make it difficult for companies to plan investments and hinder the deployment of clean energy generation; and

WHEREAS, President Obama has called for making the renewable energy production tax credit permanent, eliminating market uncertainty for renewable energy companies.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors call upon Congress to support the extension of tax provisions that incentivize the development and deployment of clean energy technologies; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urge Congress to preserve and make permanent tax credits for renewable energy and energy efficiency as it works on comprehensive corporate tax reform.

SUPPORTING A FEDERAL RENEWABLE ENERGY PORTFOLIO STANDARD AND EXTENDING THE RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY PRODUCTION AND INVESTMENT TAX CREDITS

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, strategic federal renewable energy policies are 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, in 2009 there were roughly 50,000 people working in the US solar energy sector and in 2010 the number rose to 100,000; and

WHEREAS, commercialization of 2nd & 3rd generation of Bio-fuel energy is expected to generate 800,000 new jobs – 610,000 indirect new jobs and 190,000 direct new jobs – by 2022 in the US; and

WHEREAS, sustained growth in the renewable energy sector and commensurate job increases requires a reliable federal renewable energy policy framework; 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, according to the 2011 “Clean Energy Solutions for America's Cities” report commissioned by The U.S. Conference of Mayors found that one-quarter of U.S. cities (25%) have set specific targets for increasing their use of renewable energy; 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, the federal government, by supporting renewable energy deployment, would demonstrate its commitment to help solve some of the most important issues facing the nation – energy independence, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, improving the environment, and creating thousands of jobs; and

WHEREAS, local governments have successfully utilized their American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 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, renewable electricity production tax credits and business energy investment tax credits have proven successful in spurring the development and deployment of renewable energy throughout the US; and

WHEREAS, the Renewable Electricity Production Tax Credit for wind production ends on December 31st 2012, and the production tax credit for other forms of renewable electricity expires on December 31st 2013; and

WHEREAS, the Business Energy Investment Tax Credit expires December 31, 2016,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on Congress and the Administration to adopt an aggressive national renewable energy portfolio standard, and extend the renewable electricity production tax credit through at least 2020 and the business energy investment tax credit through at least 2022.

Projected Cost: Unknown

RESOLUTION TO PROMOTE THE USE OF ENERGY EFFICIENT SOLID-STATE LED STREET LIGHTING

WHEREAS, 1,055 US Mayors have signed The U.S. Conference of Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement, pledging their commitment to reduce their communities' carbon dioxide emissions by 7 percent below 1990 level; 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, the estimated 26.5 million streetlights in the U.S. consume as much electricity each year as 1.9 million households, and generate greenhouse gas emissions equal to that produced by 2.6 million cars; and

WHEREAS, street lighting expenses represent a major part of on-going operating costs for cities across the US, for many cities it is the single largest power utility bill received, and in some cases the single largest recurring cost to the city's general fund; and

WHEREAS, every city in the U.S. has seen reductions in general fund revenue as a consequence of the current economic recession; and

WHEREAS, nearly 80 percent of streetlights in the U.S. are an average age of 25 years old or more and have reached the end of their useful life, making a near term system replacement inevitable; and

WHEREAS, a number of U.S. cities are faced with the choice of turning off streetlights due to the high cost of maintaining their existing, older streetlights, or reduce funding to other city services; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Energy has established the Municipal Solid-State Street Lighting Consortium to assist cities and other owners in the evaluation and decision making process surrounding the adoption of light emitting diode (LED) street lights, providing support tools and training; and

WHEREAS, numerous cities across the U.S. have successfully deployed over 100,000 LED street lights, experiencing additional public safety benefits due to improved visibility provided by this light source; many cities have also experienced dramatic reductions in the cost associated with operating and maintaining lighting systems by 50 percent because LED lamp sources are proven to have lifetimes three (3) or more times as long as the life of incumbent lighting technologies; and

WHEREAS, the City of Los Angeles has installed 80,000 LED streetlights since 2009 as part of a comprehensive program to convert 140,000 street lights to LED that will reduce street lighting energy consumption by 60% and carbon emissions by at least 40,500 tons per year; and

WHEREAS, the City of Seattle has installed about 20,000 LED streetlights since 2009, saving nearly 7 million kilowatt-hours of electricity. Combined with the savings in maintenance costs, this amounted to over \$1 million in annual savings that directly helps our general fund; and

WHEREAS, investing in cost-effective energy efficient LED street lighting can create local jobs, while reducing energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions by 50 percent.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors endorses the use of solid-state LED streetlight luminaires for lighting public streets and rights-of-way where appropriate;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The Conference of Mayors endorses the U.S. Department of Energy Municipal Solid-State Street Lighting Consortium for educating our members on the appropriate use and application of LED streetlights; and calls on our members to adopt LED street lights for lighting public streets wherever practical.

Practical adoption methods might include:

- Standard lighting material for new projects such as public works projects;
- Standard lighting replacements of existing failed units during routine maintenance;
- Large-scale adoption through LED streetlight conversion programs, such as those being implemented in Los Angeles, Seattle, Boston, Detroit, Austin, San Francisco and on the highway interchanges in the State of California.

URGENCY TO ADDRESS CLIMATE PROTECTION

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors recognizes the urgency for national policy to be enacted addressing climate change, energy efficiency, and renewable energy resources; and

WHEREAS, by lacking a cohesive national policy, fossil fuel emissions for the United States and other countries have continued to grow; according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Earth System Research Laboratory, the March 2012 global level of CO₂ in the atmosphere reached an alarming level of 391.46 ppm, up from pre-industrial levels of approximately 275 ppm; and

WHEREAS, although critics of global warming argue that the earth's temperature naturally varies, according to Dr. James Hansen, Director of the National Goddard Institute of Space Studies, the earth's temperature would normally be cooling as a result of the current stage of its orbit cycle; instead, the earth's temperatures are, in fact, rising at a significant rate with the last decade the warmest decade on record-- resulting in an increase in climatic anomalies; and

WHEREAS, in his 2008 paper, "Target Atmosphere CO₂: Where Should Humanity Aim?", Dr. Hansen and other leading scientists recommend that a reduction of CO₂ levels to 350 ppm or less is the only way to avert major, irreversible climatic change; and

WHEREAS, the 2010 Framework Convention on Climate Change (the Cancun Agreements) recognized the need to keep global average temperature below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, which equate to a CO₂ threshold of 450 ppm; and

WHEREAS, the amount of economic losses from weather- and climate- related incidents has risen considerably over the past twenty years. From Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) data, annual losses in 1980 due to weather- and climate-related incidents were only a few billion dollars, yet in 2005, losses amounted to over \$200 billion; and

WHEREAS, economic losses due to extreme and inclement weather occur largely at the city level, U.S. mayors have an important stake in strategies to reduce Green House Gas (GHG) emissions and develop renewable energy sources; and

WHEREAS, while fossil fuel emissions may add to the increasing weather- and climate-related incidents causing economic losses, renewable energy sources assist in economic development, expedite access to sustainable energy, support a steadier energy supply, and are associated with long-term reductions as shown by IPCC data; and

WHEREAS, according to the International Energy Agency, every \$1 deferred from developing renewable energy sources in the power sector before 2020 will result in additional spending to offset the increased fossil fuel emissions after 2020;

NOW, THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urgently calls on Congress and the Administration to develop comprehensive national climate and energy policy to reduce fossil fuel emissions and provide incentives to conserve energy and promote energy efficiency; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports the Obama Administration's efforts to regulate carbon emissions under the Clean Air Act; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to create an Energy Efficiency and Conservation Trust Fund, which would be used in the following manner: a portion of funds to be returned to the consumer as an incentive for conservation; a portion of funds to support local communities' conservation, energy efficiency, and renewable energy programs through the Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant; and a portion of funds to develop energy efficient distribution systems and energy efficiency research and development programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Congress permanently extend renewable energy tax credits, particularly those for solar, wind and geothermal, among others; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the nation's mayors call on the Administration to continue to seek international agreements and cooperation to address Global Climate Change given the magnitude of its catastrophic and dire effects on future generations.

REQUIRE THAT THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY FOCUS ON THE TREATMENT AND STORAGE OF RADIOACTIVE WASTE ON-SITE WHERE APPROPRIATE TO MITIGATE HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS OF TRANSPORTING LOW, HIGH AND MIXED LEVEL WASTE TO OFFSITE TREATMENT FACILITIES

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors recognizes that the treatment of nuclear waste is a regional and national issue that requires the collaboration of all levels of government to develop practical and safe solutions; and

WHEREAS, nuclear waste treatment sites across the U.S. currently have documented leakage of strontium-90, tritium, uranium, and technetium-99 among other toxic pollutants into groundwater; and

WHEREAS, there are already many barriers to quickly and adequately clean up the existing nuclear waste at current nuclear waste treatment sites, it is unacceptable to consider importing additional waste from other sites; and

WHEREAS, future receipt of off-site waste at these sites are projected to have significant adverse long-term impacts on the groundwater, which ultimately impact other bodies of water; and

WHEREAS, transporting low, high and mixed level radioactive materials across the nation on major interstates, highways and railways will expose countless communities across the country to hazardous radiation; and

WHEREAS, a study by The U.S. Department of Energy several years ago estimated that over 800 adults would die from cancer due to radiation emitted from the trucks in the Northwest region alone; and

WHEREAS, a truck or railway accident or terrorist attack involving transported low, high and mixed level nuclear waste would render entire cities and surrounding areas uninhabitable; and

WHEREAS, in the event of a radiological emergency in or near a city, significant impacts could create a financial burden of millions of dollars to the emergency management agencies charged with protecting the health, safety, welfare of its citizens and visitors; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on The U.S. Department of Energy to focus on the treatment and storage of radioactive waste on-site, which is the best opportunity for our communities to avoid further health and environmental impacts from waste, produced from other regional, decommissioned nuclear facilities.

CALLS ON CONGRESS TO ENACT COMPREHENSIVE ENERGY EFFICIENCY LEGISLATION

WHEREAS, energy efficiency is the quickest, cheapest, cleanest way to extend our nation's energy supplies, save money for consumers and the country as a whole, and protect the environment; and

WHEREAS, further discoveries of traditional energy sources and development of renewable technologies will contribute to America's growing energy base, energy efficiency technologies and practices represent many of the least costly options for meeting the country's future energy needs; and

WHEREAS, estimates suggest that the economy-wide net savings from energy efficiency investments could be more than a half trillion dollars over a decade as the cost of investments is more than offset by reduced energy costs; and

WHEREAS, building codes and appliance efficiency standards can accelerate the adoption of technologies that lower the net costs consumers face; and

WHEREAS, insulation reduces average home heating and cooling costs by around 20 percent; and

WHEREAS, more than one-third of all energy in the United States is used by industry and more than 40 percent if transport of manufactured goods is included; and

WHEREAS, buildings consume 40 percent of the nation's energy use; and

WHEREAS, despite challenging economic times, cities continue to explore and implement technologies to improve the energy efficiency of city assets and services, especially municipally-owned buildings; and

WHEREAS, cities view energy efficiency as a key part of their strategic planning, with over nine in ten cities (94%) saying this is an important goal of their energy strategy; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors hereby calls upon the Congress and the Administration to work together to make the issue of energy efficiency a priority and to enact energy efficiency legislation that further promotes energy efficiency throughout the economy.

SUPPORTING EFFORTS TO EDUCATE CONSUMERS ABOUT THEIR ENERGY USAGE

WHEREAS, the federal government, as well as state and local governments, have made unprecedented investments in residential and commercial energy efficiency improvements over the past several years by financing grant, loan, and rebate programs, in addition to providing tax credits for energy efficiency measures; and

WHEREAS, the private sector has also invested heavily in energy efficiency upgrades, with energy service companies partnering with both public and private building owners to conduct efficiency upgrades at no upfront cost; and

WHEREAS, utility companies throughout the country have invested billions of dollars in advanced metering infrastructure, including nearly \$4 billion in smart meter deployments financed by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act; and

WHEREAS, almost all of this investment has been in the deployment of new energy technologies, with minimal funding dedicated to educating consumers about monitoring and altering their own energy usage; and

WHEREAS, many of these technologies, including smart meters, smart energy control systems, etc., function most effectively when consumers actively interact with the technology, and understand the economic and environmental benefits of utilizing it to reduce energy consumption or shift consumption to off-peak hours; and

WHEREAS, many communities, in partnership with local utilities, have already established outreach and education programs aimed at providing guidance on energy technologies to a wide range of stakeholders; and

WHEREAS, by empowering residents to more effectively and efficiently control their energy usage behavior, these educational efforts have the potential to further increase the energy savings and greenhouse gas emission reductions realized over the past few years even without additional capital investments,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on Congress and the Obama Administration to support and provide resources for initiatives that aim to inform and educate residents about how they can change their energy behavior.

BET IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on our members to support local energy education efforts that directly leverage federal, state, local, or private investments in clean energy technologies and enhance the ability of residents to understand how and when they use energy.

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

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 re-utilization 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 1,050 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 (EECBG) 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 EECBG 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 EECBG program to develop and implement energy efficiency programs in their communities; and

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

WHEREAS, the 2011 “Clean Energy Solutions for America’s Cities” report commissioned by the U.S. Conference of Mayors found that 85% of cities felt that ARRA EECBG funding was important to their city’s energy efforts and 87% supported the appropriation of additional EECBG funding in future years; 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 2013, while supporting higher authorization levels in future years.

RESOLUTION TO PROMOTE THE GREENING OF THE RETAIL COMMUNITY

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.

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

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WHEREAS, over 1,050 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 7% of applicants; and

WHEREAS, current Climate Showcase Communities project that the two rounds of grants awarded by 2015 will save over \$19 million in annual energy costs, create 115 jobs, and avoid more than 350,000 metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions annually,

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 2013 and in future years.

URGENCY TO ADDRESS CLIMATE PROTECTION

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors recognizes the urgency for national policy to be enacted addressing climate change, energy efficiency, and renewable energy resources; and

WHEREAS, by lacking a cohesive national policy, fossil fuel emissions for the United States and other countries have continued to grow; according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Earth System Research Laboratory, the March 2012 global level of CO₂ in the atmosphere reached an alarming level of 391.46 ppm, up from pre-industrial levels of approximately 275 ppm; and

WHEREAS, although critics of global warming argue that the earth's temperature naturally varies, according to Dr. James Hansen, Director of the National Goddard Institute of Space Studies, the earth's temperature would normally be cooling as a result of the current stage of its orbit cycle; instead, the earth's temperatures are, in fact, rising at a significant rate with the last decade the warmest decade on record-- resulting in an increase in climatic anomalies; and

WHEREAS, in his 2008 paper, "Target Atmosphere CO₂: Where Should Humanity Aim?", Dr. Hansen and other leading scientists recommend that a reduction of CO₂ levels to 350 ppm or less is the only way to avert major, irreversible climatic change; and

WHEREAS, the 2010 Framework Convention on Climate Change (the Cancun Agreements) recognized the need to keep global average temperature below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, which equate to a CO₂ threshold of 450 ppm; and

WHEREAS, the amount of economic losses from weather- and climate- related incidents has risen considerably over the past twenty years. From Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) data, annual losses in 1980 due to weather- and climate-related incidents were only a few billion dollars, yet in 2005, losses amounted to over \$200 billion; and

WHEREAS, economic losses due to extreme and inclement weather occur largely at the city level, U.S. mayors have an important stake in strategies to reduce Green House Gas (GHG) emissions and develop renewable energy sources; and

WHEREAS, while fossil fuel emissions may add to the increasing weather- and climate-related incidents causing economic losses, renewable energy sources assist in economic development, expedite access to sustainable energy, support a steadier energy supply, and are associated with long-term reductions as shown by IPCC data; and

WHEREAS, according to the International Energy Agency, every \$1 deferred from developing renewable energy sources in the power sector before 2020 will result in additional spending to offset the increased fossil fuel emissions after 2020;

NOW, THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urgently calls on Congress and the Administration to develop comprehensive national climate and energy policy to reduce fossil fuel emissions and provide incentives to conserve energy and promote energy efficiency; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports the Obama Administration's efforts to regulate carbon emissions under the Clean Air Act; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to create an Energy Efficiency and Conservation Trust Fund, which would be used in the following manner: a portion of funds to be returned to the consumer as an incentive for conservation; a portion of funds to support local communities' conservation, energy efficiency, and renewable energy programs through the Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant; and a portion of funds to develop energy efficient distribution systems and energy efficiency research and development programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Congress permanently extend renewable energy tax credits, particularly those for solar, wind and geothermal, among others; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the nation's mayors call on the Administration to continue to seek international agreements and cooperation to address Global Climate Change given the magnitude of its catastrophic and dire effects on future generations.

STATE SUBSTITUTION FOR NEPA RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, it is in the interest of the United States of America, its States, and municipalities to develop 21st Century infrastructure in an expedient, cost effective, resourceful manner to create jobs and increase economic competitiveness;

WHEREAS, in 2012, bipartisan legislation introduced in both chambers of Congress have proposed elimination of duplicative environmental reviews and other measures to accelerate project delivery, including new policy allowing States to apply to the Secretary of Transportation to use its own environmental laws and regulations in lieu of federal environmental laws and regulations;

WHEREAS, the President has championed initiatives to increase U.S. exports to make America more competitive globally;

WHEREAS, the Federal Highway Administration estimates that 18,000 jobs are created for every \$1 billion invested in public infrastructure;

WHEREAS, the economic impact of a nine-year delay to a \$300 million construction project is the loss of 3,050 jobs and \$92 million in GDP, according to a 2011 report by the Orange County Transportation Authority;

WHEREAS, states with heavily traveled goods-movement corridors, ports, airports, and border crossings urgently require assistance to streamline project reviews to achieve national trade economic growth objectives;

WHEREAS prompt, streamlined project delivery in states with heavily traveled goods-movement corridors positively affects other transportation and infrastructure projects through the nation;

WHEREAS, limited public dollars for infrastructure increase the importance of finding efficiencies in the delivery of projects;

WHEREAS, the federal National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is designed to ensure a thorough, rigorous and public process to assess adverse environmental effects of a project;

WHEREAS, some states have adopted environmental laws equal to or exceeding the rigorous federal NEPA requirements in protecting the environment, providing for public review, and mitigating impacts;

WHEREAS, in States with environmental laws equal to or exceeding the federal NEPA requirements, many projects must still undergo review under NEPA in addition to state environmental laws, creating duplicative reviews that are costly in time and public resources;

WHEREAS, long, duplicative environmental reviews are fiscally and environmentally irresponsible due to the time it takes to get a transit or highway project approved and implemented;

WHEREAS, increased project costs due to inefficient, duplicative review and oversight of environmental laws means fewer funds available to meet transportation mobility needs and leads to a reduction in the potential for job creation from infrastructure investments;

WHEREAS, the independent, bipartisan National Surface Transportation Policy & Revenue Study Commission (Section 1909 Commission) cites that major highway projects take approximately 13 years from initiation to completion, while the average Federal Transit Administration New Starts transit project takes 10 + years to complete;

WHEREAS, according to the Section 1909 Commission, significant delays to project delivery can increase the costs of projects by up to 7% annually;

WHEREAS, the Surface Transportation Project Delivery Pilot Program was created by SAFETEA-LU in 2005, which allowed five states to accept the role of the federal government in ensuring projects meet NEPA requirements;

WHEREAS, this streamlining program has been a positive step towards accelerating project delivery in the one state where it has been implemented;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls upon Congress to allow states the opportunity to substitute their environmental laws for federal environmental laws where state laws are substantially equivalent to or exceed federal environmental laws, for the purposes of eliminating costly and duplicative reviews.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors believes that environmental stewardship and job creation can be simultaneously achieved by removing duplication of environmental review documents while ensuring appropriate oversight of State and federal environmental laws which will protect the environment and the taxpaying public.

CITY INVESTMENT PRIORITIES FOR WATER AND WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES

WHEREAS, local government investments in community water and wastewater systems have continually increased over the last 6 decades; and

WHEREAS, continual improvement in water quality has been achieved, such that the fires on the Cuyahoga River are a sad memory and no longer a current event; and

WHEREAS, the level and type of drinking water treatment has advanced to the point that waterborne infectious diseases have been dramatically reduced for several decades; and

WHEREAS, actuarial tables reflect progress in extending the lifetime of our citizens and this progress is partially due to improvements in water quality: females born in 1960 have a life expectancy of 73 years, and females born in 2008 have a life expectancy of 80 years; males born in 1960 have a life expectancy of 66 years, and males born in 2008 have a life expectancy of 75 years; and

WHEREAS, given the reality that over 90 percent of all spending on community water and wastewater systems, including compliance with Clean Water Act (CWA) and Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) federal unfunded mandates, is made by local governments; and

WHEREAS, Congress and the Administration has aggressively retreated from shared financial responsibility for achieving clean water goals; and

WHEREAS, the Administration has dramatically increased regulatory mandates that are implemented in a stove-pipe fashion with little or no regard for the cost burden to comply that is placed on local governments and ratepayers; and

WHEREAS, local government spending on community water and wastewater infrastructure and services faces unprecedented levels amounting to \$103 billion in 2009, and local government has no alternative but to finance capital investment in water and wastewater with long-term debt that now crowds the ability of local government to finance other worthy public projects; and

WHEREAS, local government long-term debt has grown from \$886 billion in 2000 to \$1.61 trillion in 2009, and cities and their respective ratepayers are ill prepared to afford additional unfunded water mandates,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the United States Conference of Mayors urges all city governments to establish as their highest priority the continued investment to sustain the currently operating community water and wastewater systems serving the public because it provides public benefits that sustain our quality of life, including: protecting public health; providing for support of local and metro economic

government long-term debt has grown from \$886 billion in 2000 to \$1.61 trillion in 2009, and cities and their respective ratepayers are ill prepared to afford additional unfunded water mandates,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the imposition of new water and wastewater regulations divert resources from this higher priority and by so doing increase the likelihood that adequate reinvestment to maintain and sustain current water and wastewater systems is in jeopardy, and that system decay, service disruptions and the re-emergence of parasitic waterborne diseases must weigh heavily in any decision to impose new and additional water and/or wastewater unfunded mandates; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the second most important priority of local government is to secure the future water supply by: protecting source water, including groundwater, groundwater recharge and sole source aquifers; and the water quality of estuaries, lakes, and rivers; eliminating water loss from failing pipes; reducing water use through conservation efforts; and increasing water supply via recycling reuse, reclamation and desalination according to appropriate 'fit for use' strategies the imposition of new water and wastewater regulations divert.

SUPPORTING EPA'S INTEGRATED PLANNING AND PERMITTING POLICY

WHEREAS, local governments provide the water and wastewater infrastructure that supplies clean and safe water; and

WHEREAS, in 2009 alone, local governments invested \$103 billion in water and wastewater infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, these infrastructure investments are the reason Americans enjoy some of the safest, cleanest, most affordable water in the world; and

WHEREAS, local governments do not have the financial capability to continue maintaining existing infrastructure that provides a high level of public health and environmental benefits, if they are forced at the same time to increase investments in new infrastructure that would provide fewer public health and environmental benefits; and

WHEREAS, even if a local government could obtain financing to invest in new infrastructure, the debt service will cause utility rates to rise beyond what is affordable for local citizens and rate-payers with a disproportionate impact on the poor and middle-class families; and

WHEREAS, U.S. EPA has recently recognized the financial capability limitations on local governments and families and has offered to work with local governments to make infrastructure investments more effective and affordable; and

WHEREAS, the Clean Water Act provides tools that can make local governments' substantial investments in environmental protection more effective and affordable, including use attainability analyses, variances, compliance schedules, and site-specific standards; and

WHEREAS, U.S. EPA agrees that it has the flexibility to utilize these tools to reduce regulatory burdens on local governments, but rarely employs them; and

WHEREAS, the ability to integrate planning and permitting of multiple water-related regulatory obligations, including obligations under the Clean Water Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act, would allow local governments to focus limited resources on actions that will provide the greatest environmental and public health benefits and may reduce the need to take future actions and incur future costs; and

WHEREAS, U.S. EPA agrees that it has the flexibility, when taking an enforcement action against a local government, to allow the local government to employ integrated planning to prioritize investment in Clean Water Act regulatory obligations that provide the greatest public health and environmental benefits; and

WHEREAS, U.S. EPA historically has taken the position that it does not have the flexibility to allow local governments to more effectively and affordably prioritize

investment in Clean Water Act regulatory obligations related to compliance with pre-1977 water quality standards except through initiation of administrative or judicial enforcement actions against those local governments; and

WHEREAS, Mayors do not believe that they should be subject to costly and inefficient enforcement actions before they can engage in integrated planning or prioritize investment in regulatory obligations that would result in greater human health and environmental benefits, notwithstanding the date a water quality standard was promulgated; and

WHEREAS, Mayors believe that the Clean Water Act specifically grants U.S. EPA the flexibility to allow local governments to more effectively and affordably prioritize investment in regulatory obligations related to compliance with pre-1977 water quality standards without initiation of administrative or judicial enforcement actions; and

WHEREAS, integrated planning and prioritizing investments with more substantial human health and environmental benefits is better supported through focusing local governments' limited resources on planning rather than on costly and inefficient enforcement proceedings,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges U.S. EPA to employ Clean Water Act tools to the fullest extent authorized to provide regulatory flexibility to local governments, urges EPA to reconsider its historic interpretation limiting its authority to allow integrated planning outside the enforcement context, and urges EPA to reconsider its position that integrated planning can only include Clean Water Act obligations and include Safe Drinking Water Act obligations as well; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges U.S. EPA to cease treating local governments as polluters, and instead work with local governments as partners in environmental and public health stewardship; and, only include Clean Water Act obligations and include Safe Drinking Water Act obligations as well; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to support the utilization of regulatory flexibility in lieu of the enforcement of unachievable standards by reappropriating or reprogramming funds from U.S. EPA's enforcement account to U.S. EPA's environmental programs and management account, for the purpose of carrying out use attainability analyses, and helping states develop variances, compliance schedules, and site-specific standards; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to support integrated planning by reappropriating or reprogramming funds from U.S. EPA's enforcement account to U.S. EPA's state and tribal assistance grants account, for the purpose of reducing enforcement actions against local governments and increasing the capacity of state and local governments to support integrated planning through water quality plans developed under section 208 of the Clean Water Act; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if the U.S. EPA continues to interpret the Clean Water Act to limit the use of integrated planning outside the enforcement context, then The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to enact a narrow amendment to the Clean Water Act to address this barrier by making it clear that, when integrated plans are utilized, water quality standards can be met over time, regardless of their promulgation date; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if the U.S. EPA continues to interpret the law to preclude consideration of regulatory obligations under the Safe Drinking Water Act when developing an integrated plan that includes Clean Water Act obligations, then The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to enact a narrow amendment to the Clean Water Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act to address this barrier.

SUPPORTING A WATER INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCE AND INNOVATION ACT (WIFIA) TO ENABLE LOW-COST MECHANISMS TO LEVERAGE FUNDING FOR DRINKING WATER, WASTEWATER, FLOOD CONTROL, AND STORM WATER INFRASTRUCTURE

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 \$530 billion is needed to invest in water and wastewater infrastructure improvements over the next twenty 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, wastewater projects, storm water and flood control 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, enacting such legislation will substantially benefit the nation’s drinking water and wastewater systems by reducing borrowing costs and thereby accelerating infrastructure investment; 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 budget authority translates into over \$1 billion in credit assistance – approximately a nine-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 than for TIFIA; 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, federal credit in a project can also make the project more attractive for private capital and lower interest rates on private lending; and

WHEREAS, a Water Infrastructure Financing and Innovation Act (WIFIA) modeled on the TIFIA program would target the current gap in funding for large, regionally significant projects; and

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

WHEREAS, enacting WIFIA legislation would therefore provide a critical additional financing tool designed to complement existing financing mechanisms; and

WHEREAS, such legislation also works within the existing structure for water infrastructure finance by (1) maintaining the primary responsibility of local governments for the nation's water infrastructure; and (2) leveraging federal credit assistance to make it easier and less expensive for American communities to access public and private capital; and

WHEREAS, such legislation will help meet the nation's water infrastructure needs while creating tens of thousands of jobs at minimal cost to the federal government,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the United States Conference of Mayors supports the enactment of a Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) and urges Congress to enact such legislation to create a new and innovative financing mechanism to help meet the nation's critical water infrastructure needs.

URGING THE PASSAGE OF A FARM BILL THAT SUPPORTS HEALTHY, LOCAL, AND REGIONAL FOOD SYSTEMS

WHEREAS, Mayors recognize the many important benefits to cities from the farm and food policy and program support in the Farm Bill, including federal nutrition assistance programs, access to healthy foods for under-resourced communities, promoting environmental stewardship and conservation, and protecting our food supply; and

WHEREAS, there are major concerns about food and farming issues that affect the health of citizens in urban America because of hunger and food insecurity in low income populations, lack of access to healthy food in low income areas, chronic diseases related to poor diet such as obesity, diabetes and cardiovascular diseases; and

WHEREAS, legislation is pending in Congress which proposes significant cuts in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) over the next 10 years – cuts which would eliminate or reduce benefits to every SNAP household and jeopardize the national economic recovery by removing billions of dollars from the economy; and

WHEREAS, the areas of our cities which have the highest rates of enrollment in federal nutrition assistance programs also have the least access to healthy food and the highest rates of obesity and diet- related diseases, which ultimately lead to significant health related costs at the federal and local levels; and

WHEREAS, approximately 90% of our nation's farms are owned by smaller scale farmers, and support of smaller scale farmers in a local food system provides economic benefits to each region; and

WHEREAS, Senator Sherrod Brown and Representative Chellie Pingree have introduced the “Local Farms, Food, and Jobs Act” to support local food system, which reflects sound public policy consistent with the intent of the original farm bill purpose; and

WHEREAS, there is a need for strategic focus through a lead point of contact with the US Department of Agriculture for the growing number of creative city-based initiatives which promote a healthy food system, ranging from urban agriculture and aquaculture, greenhouses, business incubators and programs to efforts to expand SNAP purchases at farmer's markets; and

WHEREAS, there are environmental and health concerns arising from production practices and distribution of agricultural products through an elaborate food supply transportation network which contributes to greenhouse gas emissions, and agricultural dependence on pesticides and chemically intensive production that contributes to soil degradation, air and water pollution, and dramatic losses of prime agricultural land in certain states due to urban sprawl, which threatens the preservation and protection of urban watersheds; and

WHEREAS, a strong agriculture conservation program in which city water utilities are full partners is critical to reducing the environmental impact of farming and to protecting watersheds and urban drinking water supplies, and;

WHEREAS, public/private partnerships can significantly improve access to healthy food as in a model program in Pennsylvania run by a Community Development Finance Institution (CDFI) and food access organization that used \$30 million in state funds to leverage more than \$160 million in additional resources to develop 88 healthy food retail projects, more than 5,000 jobs, and access to healthy food for more than 400,000 people, and;

WHEREAS, federal agencies- Treasury, HHS, and USDA are supporting successful efforts to improve access to healthy food through the federal Healthy Food Financing Initiative (HFFI) and related programs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT The United States Conference of Mayors supports the promotion of access to healthy and affordable foods for all residents, including strengthening incentives and infrastructure to encourage more local fruit/vegetable production and distribution, environmentally sustainable farming practices, better access to fresh foods and investment in programs promoting healthy food, expansion of programs that help communities invest in retail markets, food-based businesses and increasing access to farmers markets, farm-to-cafeteria programs that bring the freshest, locally grown food into school lunch programs and other institutions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors supports the promotion of food security in the Farm Bill by restoring and maintaining funding levels for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), and other nutrition assistance programs including the restoration of the \$14 billion that was cut from SNAP in 2010 to pay for other legislative priorities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors opposes balancing the Federal budget by cutting needed funding to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and by restricting “Heat and Eat” policies that ensure that families do not need to make the impossible choice to pay for food or pay for energy, thereby asking only those less fortunate to make the necessary sacrifices; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors supports preserving and expanding existing USDA programs such as the Senior Farmer’s Market Nutrition Program, the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Snack Program in schools, and programs that advocate for the increased use of Electronic Benefits

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States Conference of Mayors supports the continued funding of HFFI and its inclusion in the reauthorization of the Farm Bill.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we support the establishment of an "Office of Urban Innovations in Agriculture" to help lend strategic focus to system innovations in cities across America and provide mayors and city officials with an information resource and ready access to assistance with the new and existing programs available at USDA, in the areas of urban agriculture and aquaculture, green roof and greenhouse production, and food system business incubation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges the inclusion of provisions of the "Local Farms, Food, and Jobs Act" that support and strengthen local food systems and increase access to healthy and affordable food especially in low-income and under-resourced communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to strengthen and expand agriculture conservation programs as a strategic investment in our country's agricultural infrastructure, including improving air and water quality and the protection of urban water sheds, to continue to require conservation practices as a condition of crop insurance or direct payments, and to sufficiently fund agriculture conservation programs and make water utility watershed management programs eligible for funding under the Partnerships and Cooperation Program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors supports investments in infrastructure, entrepreneurship programs and facilities that process, distribute and develop value-added products using locally-grown commodities purchased from small and mid-sized local farmers including beginning and socially disadvantaged farmers , to meet the demand for local, healthy food, and that funding be preserved or increased for Specialty Crops.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the US Conference of Mayors supports passage of a Farm Bill, which incorporates the above stated goals and principles, before its current expiration of October 1, 2012.

RESOLUTION TO EXPEDITE FLOOD RISK REDUCTION PROJECTS

WHEREAS, following the new engineering and science data from the levee failures during Hurricane Katrina, cities across America have embarked on a massive national initiative to strengthen their flood control systems based on the state-of-the-art standards; and

WHEREAS, in order to minimize risk to millions of Americans and their property and jobs, cities and their partners are proceeding with levee projects in advance of federal congressional authorization and with the expectation that the non-federal cost share will be significantly higher than in prior decades; and

WHEREAS, advance funding by non-federal partners like cities and states allows for flood protection improvements to be in place far faster, but it depends on an assured, certain crediting of non-federal investments so that the advance expenditures are deducted from future non-federal cost-share requirements; and

WHEREAS, in 2011, the Assistant Secretary of the Army withdrew all crediting for advance flood risk reduction projects under Section 104 of the Water Resources Development Act, resulting in the delay or cancellation of levee projects throughout the nation and dramatically increasing risk to people and property; and

WHEREAS, due to the congressional earmark ban, there is now no procedural path for flood risk reduction projects to be authorized, even after completion of all necessary technical studies, engineering evaluations, alternatives analyses, and recommendation by the Corps,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls upon the President to restore crediting eligibility under Section 104 of the Water Resources Development Act or extend eligibility under Section 221 to cover (1) flood risk management projects which were underway at the time of the 2011 withdrawal by the Assistant Secretary of the Army and (2) projects at milestones earlier than the draft feasibility report, such as completion of the reconnaissance study, and to authorize the Corps of Engineers to grant other exceptions, as appropriate, when in the public interest; and be it further; and

BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to enact legislation authorizing projects for which the Army Corps of Engineers has submitted a favorable Chief's Report, without the need for a specific earmark appropriation.

SUPPORTING THE CONTINUED MAINTENANCE OF SMALL AND MEDIUM SIZED HARBORS BY THE U.S. ARMY CORPS

WHEREAS, all harbors are important components of, and contributors to, the quality of life, and are economic drivers in the communities in which they are located, and are important components of the Great Lakes transportation infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the Harbor, located at Waukegan, Illinois and similar facilities in communities across the Great Lakes, are crucial to the viability of businesses devoted to recreational boating, and

WHEREAS, the maintenance of the federally designated Harbor of Safe Refuge in Waukegan is crucial in allowing for safe haven during violent weather or mechanical failure for all ships and recreational boats; and

WHEREAS, the maintenance of the egress and ingress by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to such facilities is crucial to the industrial facilities located in Waukegan Harbor because these industries rely on the shipping of their raw materials across the Great Lakes, and

WHEREAS, the failure to maintain access to the harbor in Waukegan, and others of similar characteristics across the Great Lakes, will force industries which rely on shipping to obtain their raw materials to instead rely on the conveyance of said raw materials and finished products via over the road trucking, and

WHEREAS, such changes in the methods of material movement will put an unreasonably heavy burden on the secondary roads and bridges within Waukegan and other cities, and will lead to the increased costs of road and bridge repair being born solely by the community; and

WHEREAS, commercial shipping has a smaller carbon footprint than commercial over-the-road trucking and, therefore, has fewer negative impacts on the environment, and

WHEREAS, all activities related to ports, whether commercial or recreational, are important economic development drivers and help create and retain jobs, and

WHEREAS, harbor maintenance and dredging projects must receive equal priority for federal funding just as airports, roads and rails as they are amenities that benefit our nation,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cities of Waukegan (and additional supporting communities) supports passage of the RAMP Act and other mechanisms which will ensure the continuity of operations for harbors, specifically those on the Great Lakes, and encourages Congress to ensure that monies collected by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for shipping fees be used for maintenance and improvements to Great Lakes harbors, particularly those of small and medium size.

RESOLUTION TO RESTORE TO STRENGTHEN U.S. EXPORTS AND THE INTEGRITY OF THE HARBOR MAINTENANCE TRUST FUND

WHEREAS, The Mayors' National Leadership Meeting on Ports and Exports highlighted the causes and consequences of the federal government's underinvestment in harbors, channels, and ports at a time when global economic forces require the United States to mount an unprecedented expansion and modernization; and

WHEREAS, The President has called for a doubling of our nation's exports, and the U.S. Conference of Mayors has endorsed that goal; and

WHEREAS, America's cities and their ports, and the jobs and industries which they support, are ramping up, but suffer from the diversion of more than one billion dollars annually from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund to other purposes unrelated to commerce or goods movement; and

WHEREAS, Both houses of Congress have passed separate legislation on a bipartisan basis to direct at least a portion of Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund monies to harbors, channels, and ports;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That The U.S. Conference of Mayors endorses legislation to assure that all moneys in the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund are appropriated to maintain and deepen the nation's harbors and ship channels, and to modernize America's ports.

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; and,

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 H.R.1596, the Superfund Reinvestment Act to reinstate the Superfund excise tax.

SUPPORTING EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY FOR MATTRESSES

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors in 2010 adopted a resolution supporting extended producer responsibility for products; and

WHEREAS, the growing product stewardship movement in the United States seeks to ensure that those who design, manufacture, sell, and use consumer products take responsibility for reducing negative impacts to the economy, environment, public health, and worker safety that occur throughout the lifecycle of a product and its packaging; and

WHEREAS, leaders in the product stewardship field in the U.S. have established new definitions for *product stewardship*, the act of minimizing health, safety, environmental and social impacts, and maximizing economic benefits of a product and its packaging throughout all lifecycle stages, and *extended producer responsibility (EPR)*, a mandatory type of product stewardship that includes, at a minimum, the requirement that the producers responsible for their product extends to post-consumer management of that product and its packaging; and

WHEREAS, mattresses represent a significant cost for municipalities to manage, where their bulk makes them difficult to handle and expensive to manage in landfills and many waste-to-energy facilities; and

WHEREAS, Connecticut municipalities spend over \$1.2 million to manage between 350,000 – 450,000 mattresses each year; and

WHEREAS, about 40 million mattresses and box springs are sold in the U.S. each year, where only a small percentage are recycled, despite the fact that when broken down to its component parts, up to 95% of a mattress can be recycled; and

WHEREAS, recycling supports as many as 10 times more jobs as traditional disposal, and supporting mattress recycling, financed by mattress manufacturers through extended producer responsibility laws, will create domestic recycling jobs; and

WHEREAS, illegal dumping of mattresses is a public health and environmental justice issue that all municipalities face; and

WHEREAS, numerous state and local government officials from California, Connecticut, Florida, Iowa, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Washington, and Wisconsin participated in PSI's National Mattress Initiative, which developed model state EPR legislation for mattresses; and

WHEREAS, based on this model, the Connecticut legislature, with leadership from Hartford Mayor Pedro E. Segarra, considered a first in the nation extended producer responsibility law for mattresses that requires manufacturers to finance and manage an end-of-life program for mattresses

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors supports state and federal EPR legislation for mattresses, and will encourage its communities to use EPR as a policy tool to relieve local governments of significant costs of managing mattresses; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors endorses the new product stewardship and extended producer responsibility principles and definitions.

IN SUPPORT OF EPA MERCURY AND AIR TOXICS STANDARDS FOR POWER PLANTS

WHEREAS, mayors recognize that mercury pollution, the majority of it coming from coal-fired power plants, represents a particularly widespread threat to families nationwide; and

WHEREAS, in 1990, 3 industry sectors made up 2/3 of the total mercury emissions in the nation including Medical Waste Incinerators, Municipal Waste Combustors (Waste-to-Energy); and Power Plants; and

WHEREAS, The first two sectors have already had to comply with mercury and air toxics rules and have reduced their mercury emission by 95%; and

WHEREAS, the technology to retrofit these facilities already exists and is being utilized in the other two industries; and

WHEREAS, because of local mercury contamination, all 50 states have fish consumption advisories in place to warn residents of the potential health effects of eating fish caught from area waters; and

WHEREAS, mercury poses a particular threat to vulnerable populations such as pregnant women and small children; and

WHEREAS, mercury is a potent neurotoxin that affects a developing child's ability to talk, walk, read and write, and in addition to learning disabilities, in utero exposure can result in severe birth defects such as blindness, deafness and cerebral palsy; and

WHEREAS, EPA's analysis projects that the annual cost to the regulated industry for the year 2016 (the first year in which EPA expects the standards to be fully implemented), would be \$9.6 billion and the aggregate benefits for that year would be between \$37-\$90 billion; and

WHEREAS, for every dollar spent to reduce this pollution, Americans get 3-9 dollars in health benefits; and

WHEREAS, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) projects that the new Clean Air Act protections from reduced mercury and air toxics will save citizens as much as \$90 billion annually when fully implemented through lower health care costs. Each year, this translates into as many as 11,000 lives saved, 4,700 heart attacks and 130,000 asthma attacks prevented, and 5,700 hospital visits avoided; and

WHEREAS, The benefits are widely distributed and are especially important to minority and low income populations who are disproportionately impacted by asthma and other debilitating health conditions; and

WHEREAS, clean, healthy air and water are fundamental American rights,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors strongly supports the EPA's issued Mercury and Air Toxics Standards for Power Plants (MATS).

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

SUPPORTING THE PEACE CORPS

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors is one of the nation's leading organizations dedicated to community building, civic engagement and the promotion of volunteerism; and

WHEREAS, the Peace Corps was established by President Kennedy's executive order on March 1, 1961, with the mission to promote world peace and friendship and a better understanding between Americans and people of other countries; and

WHEREAS, Peace Corps has three goals: 1) To provide trained Americans to live and work overseas for the needs of host countries; 2) to share the American culture and perspectives overseas; and 3) to share the international experience gained overseas with Americans back in the United States; and

WHEREAS, for over 50 years, the Peace Corps has sent more than 200,000 American volunteers to 139 host countries to work on local community projects; and

WHEREAS, more than 9,000 Peace Corps and Peace Corps Response volunteers currently serve in 75 host countries in long-term (27-month) and short-term, high impact (3 to 12 months) assignments providing technical assistance and acquiring international expertise in six program sectors: Youth Development, Education, Community and Economic Development, Health, Agriculture and Environment; and

WHEREAS, over 3,500 Peace Corps volunteers return to the United States each year with demonstrated technical, foreign language, project management, and cross cultural skills and become leaders in many different fields, including public service, education, international business, non-profit management, health, and more.

WHEREAS, more than 200,000 returned Peace Corps volunteers live and work in communities throughout the U.S. and engage in activities that promote global understanding and service while educating Americans about the cultures and people of other countries; and

WHEREAS, the Peace Corps provides free, online resources for American educators and mentors to integrate global issues and cultural awareness into their classrooms through programs such as Coverdell World Wise Schools, and can facilitate the involvement of community and civic groups interested in supporting projects overseas through the Peace Corps Partnership Program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors recognizes the vital work of the Peace Corps around the world and the valuable

contribution that returned Peace Corps volunteers make to communities in the United States upon their return from service overseas; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors will encourage local citizens to consider Peace Corps service; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U. S. Conference of Mayors will call on the thousands of returned Peace Corps volunteers living across the United States to support city initiatives and operations either on an organized volunteer basis or through staff recruitment; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors encourages mayors across the United States to recognize March 1 as Peace Corps Day in their communities with events and programs; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors will encourage local educators and community groups to utilize the free resources available through the Peace Corps and collaborations with returned Peace Corps Volunteers to enhance Sister City appreciation in the United States and elsewhere; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors will provide a point of contact to Peace Corps for potential collaborative initiatives, activities and events.

NATIONAL EXPORTS AND PORTS POLICY

WHEREAS, cities and their metro economies dominate the US export market, accounting for 88% of export merchandise value and housing all the nation’s major seaports; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors in its IHS Global Insight report “US Metro Economies: Exports in the Next Decade” forecasts that exports will account for nearly 40% of real US Gross Domestic Product (GMP) growth in the coming decade (2011-2020)—a dramatic increase over the last decade when exports accounted for 26.5% of real GDP growth; and

WHEREAS, over the long run, US export growth will be strong, averaging 8% annually during the next 10 years, outpacing imports; and

WHEREAS, the President, through his National Export Initiative, has established a goal of doubling the nation’s exports by 2015; and

WHEREAS, to take advantage of this export growth potential for our national and metro economies, investment in critical freight transportation infrastructure is needed to spur higher productivity, achieve cost efficient transport of goods destined for export, and enhance global competitiveness; and

WHEREAS, to be efficiently allocated, this investment should be targeted to the multimodal movement of goods on the nation’s most significant freight corridors, and support investment in intermodal connectors at freight terminals (gateways), including ports, rail yards and distribution centers, that support national and regional connectivity; and

WHEREAS, U.S. ports face increased competition from Canada and Mexico who are building up their seaports and rail lines to lure U.S. cargo away from U.S. ports; and

WHEREAS, U.S. ports expect changes in global shipping routes due to the expansion of the Panama Canal which is set to open in early 2015, cargo growth through the Suez Canal, and the opening of Arctic shipping routes; and

WHEREAS, the size and capacity of the ships deployed in the world’s container fleet is growing rapidly, as shippers seek more cost efficiencies by leveraging economies of scale; and

WHEREAS, in 2011, 18% of the new container ships on order were larger than 5,000 TEUs, or twenty-foot equivalent units (the standard measure for containerized cargo); and

WHEREAS, nearly 90% of the new container ships set to be built between 2012 and 2015 will exceed the 5,000 TEU mark and nearly half of these on-order ships will exceed the 10,000 TEU mark; and

WHEREAS, in order to accommodate these larger ships slated for use by global shipping companies, US ports must be deepened to at least 50 feet and that federal authorization and funding is required for such dredging projects; and

WHEREAS, over the past 10 years, containerized cargo volume at U.S. ports has grown at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 4.1 percent, culminating in a total of more than 41 million TEUs handled by US ports in 2010; and

WHEREAS, under reasonable growth projections in the U.S. economy and world trade, the number of containers handled at U.S. ports could double in 20 years; and

WHEREAS, over the past five years annual Harbor Maintenance Tax (HMT) expenditures for channel maintenance have averaged less than \$800 million, creating a surplus but leaving users with inadequately maintained channels; and

WHEREAS, the annual need for maintenance dredging is in the range of \$1.3 to \$1.6 billion, and that this need is comparable to the funds collected; and

WHEREAS, the federal government has not fully utilized the funds for needed maintenance dredging -- rather, it has allowed a large surplus to build up in the trust fund in order to mask the federal deficit or fund other programs; and

WHEREAS, a recent study by the Manpower Group of Milwaukee found that 52% of employers report they cannot match job openings with available labor due to insufficient education, skills and training; and

WHEREAS, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, 13.8% of individuals 25 years or older without a high school degree are jobless, only 9.6% of those with a high school diploma are; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, The United States Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to adopt a National Freight Policy to ensure imported cargo and goods destined for export be transported over a reliable, cost-effective, and efficient intermodal transportation system; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the nation's mayors support legislation that would require the US Department of Transportation to work with state, regional and local governments, private sector freight stakeholders, and port authorities to define a priority system of corridors and gateways of national and regional significance, and make funding available to support freight mobility and goods movement through a national multimodal/intermodal system; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the nation's mayors encourage the Administration, cities and port authorities to integrate freight policy with environmental policy thereby reducing harmful air emissions and expediting nationally important intermodal transportation projects; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the nation's mayors call on Congress to pass legislation that directs the annual distribution of all annual sums collected through the Harbor Maintenance Tax for the purposes for which it is intended; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the nation's mayors continue to strengthen the partnership between the U.S. Department of Commerce International Trade Administration, the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, the Small Business Administration and other federal agencies in the development of metro export strategies and initiatives involving local businesses, labor organizations, port authorities, educational and research institutions, and the tourism industry; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The US. Conference of Mayors calls on Congress and the administration to work with state and local government and educational systems to close the manufacturing production capacity gap and fill job openings in high skilled occupations by increasing the pool of skilled US trade workers and provide greater advanced training, through demand-driven and targeted workforce development programs, to American workers (especially veterans) in the science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) skills, which manufacturers need but have difficulty locating.

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF RIO+20, THE UNITED NATIONS
CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

WHEREAS, Rio+20, the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, will take place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, June 20-22, 2012, to mark the 20th Anniversary of the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro, and the 10th Anniversary of the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg; and

WHEREAS, Rio+20 will bring together world leaders with representatives of governments, the private sector, NGOs and other groups to focus on two major themes: a) a green economy in the context of sustainable development poverty eradication; and b) the institutional framework for sustainable development; and

WHEREAS, a major outcome will be that governments will adopt clear and focused practical measures for implementing sustainable development,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors fully supports Rio+20 and continued international reflection on pathways to a safer, more equitable, cleaner, greener, and more prosperous world for all.

IN SUPPORT OF THE TRANS-PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP

WHEREAS, President Obama announced in November 2009 the United States' intention to participate in the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) negotiations to conclude an ambitious, next-generation, Asia-Pacific trade agreement that reflects U.S. priorities and values; and

WHEREAS, the nine countries – Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Chile, Malaysia, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, Vietnam, and the United States – have now achieved the broad outlines of an agreement; and

WHEREAS, through this agreement, U.S. economic growth will increase and also support the creation and retention of high-quality jobs at home; and

WHEREAS, by increasing American exports to a region that represents more than 40 percent of global trade; and

WHEREAS, as a group, TPP countries are the fourth largest goods and services export market of the United States; and

WHEREAS, U.S. exports of agricultural products to the region totaled \$83 billion in 2010 and accounted for 72 percent of total U.S. agricultural exports to the world; and

WHEREAS, U.S. private services exports totaled \$177 billion in 2009, 37 percent of total U.S. private services exports to the world; and

WHEREAS, America's small- and medium-sized enterprises alone exported \$171 billion to the Asia-Pacific in 2009; and

WHEREAS, the Obama Administration has expressed its intention to explore in 2012 issues regarding additional trade promotion authority necessary to approve the Trans-Pacific Partnership and future trade agreements,

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors supports the speedy negotiation and passage of the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement, supports granting the USTR Trade Promotion Authority, and hereby affirms to all members of the United States Congress its strongest endorsement of such an agreement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be provided to the President of the United States, the Chairs and Ranking Members of the U.S. Senate Finance and the U.S. House Ways and Means Committees, the U.S. Trade

Representative, the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of Labor and the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Projected Cost: Unknown

SUPPORTING ENHANCED U.S. MAYORS-INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS ON MAJOR SPORTING EVENTS

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 seeks to double American exports and promote international export financing; 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 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.

WHEREAS, the Government of the United States and the Government of Brazil signed a Memorandum of Understanding to Support State and Local Cooperation.

WHEREAS, the Government of the United States and the Government of Brazil signed a Memorandum of Understanding to Support the Organization of Major Global Sporting Events.

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, by engaging with Brazilian State and Local governments in cooperation surrounding major sporting events including the 2014 FIFA World Cup and the 2016 Olympic Games.

COMMEMORATING THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WAR OF 1812

WHEREAS, on June 18th, 1812 President James Madison signed a declaration of war against Great Britain, officially signaling the start of the War of 1812; and

WHEREAS, the War of 1812 stands as an important part of United States and Great Britain's history; and

WHEREAS, the War of 1812 includes numerous battles including when the British famously captured Washington and set fire to both the Capitol building and the White House; and

WHEREAS, the cities of New York, New Orleans, Baltimore famously repelled invading forces during the war, and numerous other cities fought their own battles as well as contributing forces and resource to this battle; and

WHEREAS, in September 1814 when the British set their sights on Baltimore, Fort McHenry in Baltimore was bombarded for 25 hours, the Fort McHenry remained standing and proved to be significant turning point in the war; and

WHEREAS, the sight of the fort enduring throughout that long night of bombardment inspired Francis Scott Key to write what would later become the lyrics to "the Star-Spangled Banner"; and

WHEREAS, on December 24, 1814 the Treaty Ghent was signed to end the war by diplomats representing the two countries, and later ratified by both the British and the United States setting the stage for an important relationship to be formed; and

WHEREAS, the United States and Great Britain have joined together numerous times including during World War I, World War II, the Korean War, the Cold War, and the Gulf War; and

WHEREAS, Great Britain continues to be a strong ally of United States supporting most of our efforts in the Middle East over the past decade.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the U.S. Conference of Mayors acknowledges the 200th Anniversary of the War of 1812; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, the U.S. Conference of Mayors celebrates the special relationship that has flourished between the United States and England, one of our most steadfast and important international allies.

URGENCY TO ADDRESS CLIMATE PROTECTION

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors recognizes the urgency for national policy to be enacted addressing climate change, energy efficiency, and renewable energy resources; and

WHEREAS, by lacking a cohesive national policy, fossil fuel emissions for the United States and other countries have continued to grow; according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Earth System Research Laboratory, the March 2012 global level of CO₂ in the atmosphere reached an alarming level of 391.46 ppm, up from pre-industrial levels of approximately 275 ppm; and

WHEREAS, although critics of global warming argue that the earth's temperature naturally varies, according to Dr. James Hansen, Director of the National Goddard Institute of Space Studies, the earth's temperature would normally be cooling as a result of the current stage of its orbit cycle; instead, the earth's temperatures are, in fact, rising at a significant rate with the last decade the warmest decade on record-- resulting in an increase in climatic anomalies; and

WHEREAS, in his 2008 paper, "Target Atmosphere CO₂: Where Should Humanity Aim?", Dr. Hansen and other leading scientists recommend that a reduction of CO₂ levels to 350 ppm or less is the only way to avert major, irreversible climatic change; and

WHEREAS, the 2010 Framework Convention on Climate Change (the Cancun Agreements) recognized the need to keep global average temperature below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, which equate to a CO₂ threshold of 450 ppm; and

WHEREAS, the amount of economic losses from weather- and climate- related incidents has risen considerably over the past twenty years. From Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) data, annual losses in 1980 due to weather- and climate-related incidents were only a few billion dollars, yet in 2005, losses amounted to over \$200 billion; and

WHEREAS, economic losses due to extreme and inclement weather occur largely at the city level, U.S. mayors have an important stake in strategies to reduce Green House Gas (GHG) emissions and develop renewable energy sources; and

WHEREAS, while fossil fuel emissions may add to the increasing weather- and climate-related incidents causing economic losses, renewable energy sources assist in economic development, expedite access to sustainable energy, support a steadier energy supply, and are associated with long-term reductions as shown by IPCC data; and

WHEREAS, according to the International Energy Agency, every \$1 deferred from developing renewable energy sources in the power sector before 2020 will result in additional spending to offset the increased fossil fuel emissions after 2020;

NOW, THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urgently calls on Congress and the Administration to develop comprehensive national climate and energy policy to reduce fossil fuel emissions and provide incentives to conserve energy and promote energy efficiency; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports the Obama Administration's efforts to regulate carbon emissions under the Clean Air Act; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to create an Energy Efficiency and Conservation Trust Fund, which would be used in the following manner: a portion of funds to be returned to the consumer as an incentive for conservation; a portion of funds to support local communities' conservation, energy efficiency, and renewable energy programs through the Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant; and a portion of funds to develop energy efficient distribution systems and energy efficiency research and development programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Congress permanently extend renewable energy tax credits, particularly those for solar, wind and geothermal, among others; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the nation's mayors call on the Administration to continue to seek international agreements and cooperation to address Global Climate Change given the magnitude of its catastrophic and dire effects on future generations.

CALLING FOR U.S. LEADERSHIP IN GLOBAL ELIMINATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND REDIRECTION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS SPENDING TO MEET THE URGENT NEEDS OF CITIES

WHEREAS, more than two decades after the end of the Cold War, nearly 20,000 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; and

WHEREAS, recent studies show that a nuclear war involving no more than 100 Hiroshima-sized bombs used on populated areas—less than 0.5% of the global nuclear arsenal—could have catastrophic effects on the global climate leading to a precipitous drop in average surface temperatures, reduction of the ozone layer, and a shortened agricultural growing season resulting in global famine leading to the starvation of up to one billion people; and

WHEREAS, in an historic November 2011 resolution, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement emphasized “the incalculable human suffering that can be expected to result from any use of nuclear weapons, the lack of any adequate humanitarian response capacity and the absolute imperative to prevent such use;” found it “difficult to envisage how any use of nuclear weapons could be compatible with the rules of international humanitarian law;” and appealed to all States “to pursue in good faith and conclude with urgency and determination negotiations to prohibit the use of and completely eliminate nuclear weapons through a legally binding international agreement;” and

WHEREAS, President Obama rightly said in Prague, “One nuclear weapon exploded in one city ... no matter where it happens, there is no end to what the consequences might be—for our global safety, our security, our society, our economy, to our ultimate survival,” and the 2010 U.S. Nuclear Posture Review (NPR) affirmed, “It is in the U.S. interest and that of all other nations that the nearly 65-year record of nuclear non-use be extended forever,” the NPR nonetheless retained the option to initiate nuclear warfare when under conventional attack, explicitly rejected reducing the high-alert status of Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles and Submarine Launched 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 modernization of the bombs carried on those planes; and

WHEREAS, President Obama submitted a plan to Congress in 2010 projecting investments of well over \$185 billion by 2020 to maintain and modernize U.S. nuclear weapons systems, including construction of new nuclear warhead production facilities and an array of new delivery systems, and subsequent annual budgets have provided for funding at this level; and

WHEREAS, in 2011, the United States spent \$711 billion on its military, 41% of the world total and twice as much as the next 14 countries combined, including China, Russia, six NATO allies and three major non-NATO allies; and

WHEREAS, the continuing economic crisis is forcing mayors and cities to make ever deeper cuts in critical public services; and

WHEREAS, cuts to federal programs such as Community Block Development Grants (CDBGs) and the Home Investment Partnership program (HOME) have forced cities, local agencies and non-profits to lay off staff, reduce or eliminate services, delay infrastructure projects and reduce program benefits to low and moderate income families; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors adopted resolutions in 2004, 2006 and each year since, expressing strong support for Mayors for Peace, its 2020 Vision Campaign and its Cities Are Not Targets project, and the 2010 and 2011 resolutions called for deep cuts in nuclear weapons spending and redirection of those funds to meet the needs of cities; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors adopted a second resolution at its 2011 annual meeting, “Calling on Congress to Redirect Military Spending to Domestic Needs;” and

WHEREAS, Mayors for Peace announced on September 21, 2011, the United Nations (UN) International Day of Peace, that its membership had surpassed 5000 and now has over 5250 cities in 153 countries and regions, including more than half of the world’s capital cities and over 190 U.S. members; and

WHEREAS, in his address to the 2011 U.S. Conference of Mayors annual meeting, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon recognized the importance of Mayors for Peace and the support of the USCM, declaring, “I welcome the resolution you will adopt at this conference, in particular its reiteration of support for my five-point [nuclear disarmament] plan,” and concluding, “The road to peace and progress runs through the world’s cities and towns;”

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to terminate funding for modernization of nuclear warheads, delivery systems, and production facilities, to slash spending on nuclear weapons 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 calls for the withdrawal of all tactical U.S. nuclear weapons from foreign soil and the immediate

standing down of all nuclear forces on high-alert as steps to ensure that non-use of nuclear weapons is extended until global non-possession is achieved; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on its members to raise public awareness about the ongoing dangers and costs of nuclear weapons by organizing public displays of the “5000 Member Milestone” Hiroshima – Nagasaki poster exhibitions in their City Halls, and encourages its members to join Mayors for Peace Executive City Montreal’s “Minute of Silence – Moment of Peace” global initiative by observing a minute of silence at 12 noon on September 21, 2012, the UN International Day of Peace, and posting photos and videos of events in their cities to a dedicated internet platform; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors expresses its continuing support for Mayors for Peace; pledges to continue assisting in the recruitment of new members; and supports USCM representation at General Conferences of Mayors for Peace in Hiroshima and Nagasaki every four years and annual Mayors for Peace 2020 Vision Campaign General Meetings; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors agrees to take up this matter at its 81st Annual Meeting in June 2013, and that mayors shall remain engaged in this matter until cities and citizens throughout the world are no longer under the threat of nuclear annihilation, whether by accident, design or by global famine resulting from catastrophic climate change caused by a limited nuclear exchange wherever it may occur in the world.

JOBS, EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE COMMITTEE

IN SUPPORT OF DISTRICT LEVEL RACE TO THE TOP

WHEREAS, today's students are the future of the United States, and that future is dependent on the decisions leaders make today about their education; and

WHEREAS, national and local leaders must continue to make necessary investments in quality education and take advantage of every opportunity to provide top-quality education to every student; and

WHEREAS, much of the nation's innovative education reform is happening in local school districts, where local leaders, administrators and teachers see firsthand and react to the specific needs and challenges of their students; and

WHEREAS, it is important to acknowledge the difference between states, which largely set general policy for a diverse set of students, and school districts that have to implement those policies; and

WHEREAS, realizing that district and state needs are different, it is essential to devise criteria that will enable districts to make the necessary reforms that Congress and the United States Department of Education has worked to enact; and

WHEREAS, noting that the needs of cities and states vary significantly, future rounds of the Race to the Top grant program should be directed to districts, where educators know best how to implement specific reform; and

WHEREAS, numerous school districts were encouraged that Education Secretary Arne Duncan has announced that the next round of the Race to the Top grant program would include a district-level competition; and

WHEREAS, many mayors and district leaders applaud Secretary Duncan's commitment to district level efforts, which will be an important catalyst to further and support local reforms; and

WHEREAS, by focusing district-level Race to the Top on implementation rather than just policy change, the grant will maximize the ability of districts to have direct and immediate impact on schools and classrooms.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports this round of Race to the Top grants directed to local school districts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges the United States Department of Education and the United States Congress to direct a significant portion of future rounds of Race to the Top to school districts.

SUPPORTING NCLB FLEXIBILITY

WHEREAS, the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) of 1965 was a path-breaking law that committed our nation to achieving equal access to education for all children; and

WHEREAS, the ESEA has been reauthorized seven times, most recently in 2001 by the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB); and

WHEREAS, NCLB set high education standards, increased school accountability, and focused greater attention on student achievement gaps; and

WHEREAS, despite the fact that the ESEA, prior to NCLB, had typically been reauthorized about every five years, NCLB has not been reauthorized in over a decade; and

WHEREAS, many NCLB requirements have led to unexpected challenges in implementing reform, and Congress has not acted to fix those issues since NCLB's enactment in 2001; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Education has recognized the need to provide flexibility to states from certain restrictive provisions under NCLB in exchange for their commitment to implement reforms to close achievement gaps, promote rigorous accountability, and ensure that all students are on track to graduate college- and career-ready; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Education has thus far granted waivers for eleven states from NCLB's requirements and is in the process of reviewing the applications of twenty six other states; and

WHEREAS, some states have indicated that they will not seek NCLB flexibility or may not be granted waivers by the Department of Education, which could result in thousands of school districts in those states not being afforded the same flexibility to improve schools as districts around the country; and

WHEREAS, school districts all over the country are ready and willing to meet the requirements of the NCLB waivers and implement flexibilities to improve student outcomes; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Education has demonstrated a strong commitment to supporting school districts as they move forward in implementing groundbreaking reforms at the local level to strengthen their schools systems and improve student performance.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges the Department of Education to offer school districts in states that do not apply for or are

not granted state waivers the same opportunity for flexibility from NCLB provisions so that they can most effectively close achievement gaps, promote accountability, and ensure that all students are on track to graduate college- and career-ready.

U.S. CONFERENCE OF MAYORS PRIORITIES FOR CREATING DIFFERENTIATED TEACHER AND PRINCIPAL EVALUATIONS BASED ON STUDENT OUTCOMES

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 an 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, students who had teachers that were identified as effective (by their value-added scores, based on student test performance and growth) are more likely to attend college, attend higher-ranked colleges, earn higher salaries, and live in better neighborhoods, and had lower rates of teen pregnancy; and

WHEREAS, improving the quality of administrators is as significant as improving teacher effectiveness; and

WHEREAS, research shows that effective principals are critical to school success as they are more likely to recruit, develop and retain effective teachers compared to ineffective principals; and

WHEREAS, school leaders must therefore be able to assess teacher performance accurately in order to develop and retain an effective teaching corps that increases student achievement; and

WHEREAS, teacher evaluations that are meaningful and inform teacher practice can lead to stronger accountability for school leaders, who are in charge of developing successful schools and teachers; and

WHEREAS, currently most teacher and principal evaluation systems are inadequate in providing regular, meaningful assessments of educator impact in the classroom and school; and

WHEREAS, current evaluation systems do not prioritize objective measures of student growth to be included in assessing teacher or principal performance. This is grossly misaligned with teachers' and principals' primary responsibility to ensure student academic achievement. Only twelve states now require that evidence of student learning is the major factor in teacher evaluation, compared to 27 states that still do not require this to be a factor at all; and

WHEREAS, thirty-four states currently do not require more than two categories of effectiveness to assess teacher performance, even though one study found that in districts

that use binary evaluation ratings (satisfactory vs. unsatisfactory), less than 1 percent of teachers were rated unsatisfactory, resulting in a largely meaningless rating that neither recognizes excellence or provides feedback to inform practice; and

WHEREAS, performance is often not a meaningful factor in key personnel decisions. For example, in states that base layoff policies on teacher seniority, studies show that more than 80 percent of these layoffs would result in better teachers leaving classrooms and worse teachers staying; 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 RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports the comprehensive evaluation of educators using student achievement growth as a major factor in order to ensure that schools are able to identify, develop, retain, and reward the best teachers for every child; and

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports the following policy priorities for teacher and principal evaluation systems:

- Requiring meaningful principal evaluations that are developed with input from principals and teachers, use multiple measures, are conducted annually, and are grounded in school-wide objective measures of student outcomes;
- Requiring meaningful teacher evaluations that are developed with input from teachers and principals, use multiple measures, are conducted annually, rely on observations of teachers' professional practice conducted by fully trained individuals, and are grounded in student outcomes;
- Requiring a comprehensive principal evaluation based on student growth and effective management of teachers, and with at least 4 rating tiers of effectiveness;
- Requiring a comprehensive teacher evaluation based at least 50 percent on objective measures of student outcomes; comprised of multiple measures focused on student outcomes, including observations and student evaluations; with at least 4 rating tiers of effectiveness; and anchoring effectiveness on a year's worth of student growth;
- Supporting educational staffing practices that value teachers as professionals by recognizing high performers, providing frequent and meaningful feedback to inform teaching practice, instructional leadership, and school culture;
- Creating new ways to expand the reach of the most effective teachers by collecting and analyzing evaluation data to determine best practices for increasing student achievement and providing leadership opportunities for the most effective educators;
- Requiring that evaluations inform key personnel decisions, such as hiring, tenure, and promotion, and exiting those who are not serving students well from the system.

U.S. CONFERENCE OF MAYORS PRIORITIES FOR CREATING COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIPS BETWEEN DISTRICT AND CHARTER SCHOOLS

WHEREAS, 5 percent of all public schools are public charter schools, serving over 2 million students; and

WHEREAS, over 500 new public charter schools have opened in the past year; and

WHEREAS, the number of charter schools in our country is steadily increasing; and

WHEREAS, forty states and the District of Columbia all have charter schools; and

WHEREAS, the majority of charter schools are located in urban areas; and

WHEREAS, certain public charter schools, through their autonomy and ability to innovate, have outperformed their district counterparts in areas such as graduation rates, college acceptance rates, and performance on student assessments; and

WHEREAS, with their increased autonomy, charters have been able to develop best practices in human capital development, break down barriers in digital learning capacities, create specialized instructional models that serve a variety of student populations, and establish public-private partnerships that increase students' college readiness; and

WHEREAS, for students who are low-income and students who are English Language Learners, charter schools have a larger and more positive effect than for similar students in traditional public schools; and

WHEREAS, public charter schools and traditional public schools are often located in close proximity to each other, serving students in the same neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, both traditional public school districts and public charter schools share common goals of raising student achievement, eliminating the achievement gap, and expanding educational opportunities for all children; and

WHEREAS, public charter schools are designed to innovate and develop new models for instruction, leadership, development, human capital management, and operations, but often lack the capacity to scale up across a large number of schools so that innovations can impact a greater number of students; and

WHEREAS, districts that have collaborated with charters to increase student achievement have created exciting models for improving instruction and have increased parental access to high quality school options within those districts.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports the following district-charter collaboration initiatives:

- Through the formation of district-charter compacts, empowering and incentivizing districts and public charter schools to work together in collaboration and sharing of best practices and programs;
- Working together to help the most successful schools expand and replicate, whether those schools are district or public charter schools, in order to extend quality offerings to a greater number of students;
- Creating opportunities for teachers and principals to learn from each other and participate in joint professional development;
- Establishing mechanisms for collaboration through which districts and public charter schools share best practices and design innovative solutions to improve student outcomes;
- Facilitating equitable access to and sharing of school facilities;
- Creating clear lines of communication between district and charter schools for tracking students, including those who have been expelled;
- Facilitating collaboration regarding enrollment policies and student disciplinary procedures, in order to ensure that charters have access to and are serving the highest needs students, including those with special needs, and those in foster care or the juvenile justice system;
- Pursuing a common accountability framework and transparent reporting process for all schools, whether district or charter, which uses longitudinal data to support schools and institutes measures that immediately address poor-performing schools, including, when appropriate, closing schools;
- Committing to a discussion with state legislators to advance legislation in areas of mutual interest;
- Facilitating access to equitable financing and public funding.

U.S. CONFERENCE OF MAYORS PRIORITIES FOR EMPOWERING PARENTS TO TRANSFORM FAILING SCHOOLS

WHEREAS, nearly 2,000 high schools are considered ‘dropout factories,’ where 40 percent or more of the freshman class fail to graduate with their fellow students in their senior year; and

WHEREAS, 38 percent of African American students and 33 percent of Latino students attend ‘dropout factories’; and

WHEREAS, these ‘dropout factories’ alone account for 51 percent of the nation’s dropouts; and

WHEREAS, only 27 percent of the nation’s “new graduates” will likely go on to earn a college credential or degree. Specifically, 14 percent will earn a vocational certificate, 9 percent will earn a two-year degree, and only 4 percent will earn a four-year college degree; and

WHEREAS, the lowest-performing schools, across all grade levels, are typically found in the most disadvantaged communities; and

WHEREAS, students in these communities are often forced to attend the lowest-performing schools simply because of their zip code, thereby impacting their prospects for a high quality education; and

WHEREAS, parents of children stuck in failing schools often feel powerless and ill-equipped to give their children a better education; and

WHEREAS, parents often have limited options for improving their child’s education and have few, if any, tools to change a failing school; and

WHEREAS, too many districts continue to turn a blind eye toward some of the worst performing schools that have been underperforming for years, preventing transformative change from taking place;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports empowering parents with information and tools to make the best decisions for their children and to ensure that no child is trapped in a failing school; and

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports the creation of ‘parent trigger’ policy initiatives that include:

- Empowering parents with information about their child’s school’s performance so they can make informed decisions about their educational options.

- Empowering a majority of parents whose children attend one of the state's persistently lowest-achieving schools to sign a petition to turnaround that school.
- Allowing parents to choose from one of at least four intervention options to improve their child's school: turnaround, restart, school closure, or transformation.
- Establishing clear guidelines for the petition process and format, and ensuring parents' privacy and protection from harassment and intimidation from those opposed to the petition.
- Requiring districts to implement the parent-selected intervention option within a specified time period.
- Enabling parents to appeal to state officials if the local district fails to act.

U.S. CONFERENCE OF MAYORS PRIORITIES FOR ATTRACTING AND RETAINING TOP TALENT INTO THE TEACHING PROFESSION

WHEREAS, in 2010 the US ranked 14th in reading, 17th in science, and 25th in mathematics among the 34 Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries; and

WHEREAS, in 2008 the U.S. high school graduation rate was lower than the rates of the following OECD countries: United Kingdom, Switzerland, Norway, South Korea, Japan, Italy, Ireland, Germany, Finland and Denmark; and

Whereas, in that same year the U.S. was the only developed nation where a higher percent of 55- to 64-year-olds than 25- to 34-year-olds had graduated from high school; and

WHEREAS, increasing student achievement, graduation and college completion rates can result in economic benefits including increases in individual earnings; home sales; job growth; spending and investment; and tax revenues; and

WHEREAS, though there are a number of factors that influence student success, the quality of an education system is dependent on the quality of its teachers; and

WHEREAS, the world's top performing school systems recruit 100 percent of their teacher corps from the top third of college graduates; and

WHEREAS, in the U.S. only 23 percent of new teachers come from the top third, and just 14 percent of teachers in high poverty schools come from the top third; and

WHEREAS, though some schools of education in the U.S. offer rigorous training, many are still held in low regard, while more than half of teachers are trained in colleges with low admissions standards, accepting nearly any high school graduate that applies; and

WHEREAS, the number of new teacher hires in public schools is projected to increase 12 percent to 350,000 in 2020; and

WHEREAS, the average earnings for workers in the U.S. with college degrees are 50 percent higher than average teachers' salaries; and

WHEREAS, research suggests that improving compensation, working conditions and professional prestige could attract a higher percentage of the top college students into the profession;

WHEREAS, President Obama's Project RESPECT outlines similar challenges and strategies for addressing teacher talent needs in the U.S.;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports the development of a strategic and systematic approach to attract, retain and ensure the efficacy of the most talented educators; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports the following policy priorities:

- Establish more selective, applied, and rigorous standards for schools of education to ensure that top quality candidates are attracted to the profession.
- Create new pipelines to the profession via high-quality alternative certification programs.
- Work to identify and improve working conditions and leadership opportunities that attract and retain top talent to remain in the classroom, where they are needed most.
- Increase starting salaries and dramatically increase potential earnings for teachers and principals, to reflect importance of the profession.
- Create career and leadership opportunities that value success in the classroom as highly as success in management and administration.
- Focus initial efforts on recruiting top talent to the highest-need districts and schools.

A CALL TO ACTION TO REDUCE CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM IN OUR NATION'S SCHOOLS

WHEREAS, cities across the country are grappling with the harsh reality that as many as one in four students are missing nearly a month or more of school, putting them at risk of academic failure and dropping out; and

WHEREAS, chronic absence – missing 10 percent or more of school for any reason including excused and unexcused absences – is a proven predictor of academic trouble and dropout rates; and

WHEREAS, few students who are chronically absent in both kindergarten and first grade can read at grade level by the end of third grade. Improving attendance in the early grades is therefore a core pillar of the comprehensive strategy adopted by the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading for ensuring that children learn to read by the end of third grade so they can read to learn in later grades; and

WHEREAS, by the sixth grade, chronic absenteeism is highly predictive of which students will drop out of high school. By the ninth grade, attendance is a better predictor of graduation than eighth grade test scores; and

WHEREAS, chronic absenteeism rates are highest in low-income communities, where school offers students the best opportunity for improved life outcomes; and

WHEREAS, chronic absenteeism undermines efforts to improve school performance and to narrow the achievement gap, because improvements in classroom instruction have little impact if students are not in class to benefit from them; and

WHEREAS, chronic absence affects all students, even those who show up regularly, when teachers must spend time reviewing concepts for students who missed lessons; and

WHEREAS, chronic absenteeism is a flag that something is wrong in a child's life – providing an opportunity to intervene before it is too late; it is also a public safety issue. Kids who are on the streets instead of at their desks are at an elevated risk of being the victim of a crime, or arrested on juvenile justice charges. In New York City, 79 percent of juveniles arrested had been chronically absent prior to their arrest; and

WHEREAS, most cities do not know if chronic absence is a problem because most districts do not use their attendance data to calculate this attendance indicator. They monitor only average daily attendance and unexcused absences (truancy) and both can mask high levels of chronic absence; and

WHEREAS, cities are in an excellent position to call for data showing whether chronic absence is a problem. In New York City, one in five students—more than 200,000 young people—missed 20 days or more of school last year. In Providence, chronic absence

affects over 37 percent of its student population. In Oregon, 21 percent of students in rural, urban and suburban communities are chronically absent; and

WHEREAS, cities can leverage their own resources to identify and implement strategies that address key barriers to school attendance, such as little access to health services, poor transportation, unsafe neighborhoods, unstable housing and lack of awareness about the importance of going to school regularly starting in the early grades; and

WHEREAS, we applaud the exemplary leadership of Mayor Bloomberg and his administration for demonstrating the critical role that cities can play in combating chronic absence, improving student attendance and increasing instructional time. In less than two years, the Mayor’s Interagency Task Force on Truancy, Chronic Absenteeism and School Engagement has impacted chronic absence levels in target schools—giving students who benefited from the program last year an additional 7,000 days of school. Key components of effective practice illustrated by New York City’s Task Force include:

- Data sharing among key stakeholders and strategic use of “early warning” data to identify and prevent chronic absence and school failure;
- Personalizing school through the creation of the largest in-school mentoring program in the nation—targeting over 4,000 at-risk students, by “repurposing” existing resources and partnerships;
- Cultivation of a culture of attendance and its importance through public messaging, awareness-building activities and attendance incentives;
- Rigorous infrastructure and data-driven accountability aimed at creating scalable models for future implementation both in NYC and nationwide;
- Creating systemic models to better connect existing local resources and community stakeholders with schools; and

WHEREAS, we endorse and support the efforts by the 124 cities involved in the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading All-America City Award process to address chronic absence in the early grades along with reducing summer learning loss and increasing school readiness. The Campaign is dedicated to improving early literacy by supporting community solutions to these three widespread, but solvable challenges. Addressing attendance offers cities a chance to use the bully pulpit to educate parents and community members about the importance of regular attendance among young children, bring together community stakeholders around an issue of common concern, and monitor progress over time;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, we call upon all of the members of The U.S. Conference of Mayors to support the creation of initiatives to reduce chronic absenteeism, including to:

- Raise public awareness and concern about the dire impact of chronic absence;
- Encourage broad community engagement and sustained civic action to help parents get their children to school every day;
- Encourage schools to publish chronic absenteeism data, along with average daily attendance.

REDUCING STUDENT LOAN INTEREST

WHEREAS, in 2007, Congress passed the College Cost Reduction and Access Act, a significant investment in higher education that eased the financial burden on millions of students and their families; and

WHEREAS, the College Cost Reduction and Access Act reduced the fixed interest rate on federal Stafford Loans for undergraduate students from 6.8 percent to 3.4 percent over a 4 year period; and

WHEREAS, more than 7.4 million students – about one third of all college students in the country – will see their interest rates double on July 1, unless Congress acts to extend the reduced interest rate; and

WHEREAS, for each year Congress allows the rate to double, the average college student with these loans will take on an additional \$1,000 in debt; and

WHEREAS, this potential increase in college costs for students comes at a time when tuition has been rising at 8 percent per year and the median wages for young people are falling; and

WHEREAS, student college loan debt now stands at \$867 billion, and now surpasses the total amount of credit card debt in the country by more than \$160 billion; and

WHEREAS, studies have shown that only 37 percent of student loan borrowers have been able to repay their loans without delinquency or delay.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to act before July 1 to prevent the doubling of the interest rate on federal Stafford Loans for undergraduate students.

SCIENCE CENTERS AND STEM EDUCATION

WHEREAS, the continued intellectual and economic well-being and prosperity of the United States depends on a skilled and educated workforce; and

WHEREAS, an educated workforce includes students trained in the subjects of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM); and

WHEREAS, in an international exam given to 15 year olds in 2009, U.S. high school students ranked significantly behind 12 industrialized nations in science and ranked 17th in math; and

WHEREAS, it has become a national priority to enhance STEM education; and

WHEREAS, in addition to formal classroom instruction, students should be exposed to science through informal science education (ISE) environments in order to spark their interest, and motivation and enhance their learning experiences in STEM; and

WHEREAS, science centers are the primary source of informal science education; and

WHEREAS, over 61 percent of Americans visited zoos, aquariums, science museums, and natural history museums in 2008; and

WHEREAS, our nation's science centers provide the following educational resources;

- 90 percent offer classes and demonstrations;
- 89 percent offer school outreach programs;
- 82 percent offer workshops for teachers;
- 75 percent offer curriculum materials;
- 56 percent offer after-school programs; and

WHEREAS, the National Research Council of the National Academies found that science learning takes place throughout life and that it occurs in non-school settings; and

WHEREAS, federal agencies that support informal science education include the National Science Foundation, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and the Institute of Museum and Library Services; and

WHEREAS, there are science centers in almost every U.S. city.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors strongly encourages the Obama Administration and the U.S. Congress to fully fund Informal Science Education programs in Fiscal Year 2013; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in establishing federal STEM policies, the Obama Administration and the U.S. Congress emphasize the unique role of America's Science Centers in providing STEM education.

SUPPORTING A STRONG TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION AGENDA

WHEREAS, the harnessing of technology and innovation is critical to the success and vitality of any public sector endeavor or organizational mission; and

WHEREAS, the combination of innovation and technology provides a powerful economic and social engine to help revitalize our cities and communities; and

WHEREAS, identifying and building partnerships with other jurisdictions, non-profit organizations, and private companies is vital to innovation and harnessing the potential of technology; and

WHEREAS, open data has been a key driver to economic development, accountability and innovation in cities; and

WHEREAS, reforming national immigration policy would be instrumental in attracting and retaining qualified and talented foreign-born Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) students attending American universities; and

WHEREAS, there is an urgent need for states and local governments to collaborate with National Telecommunications and Information Administration's (NTIA) in developing and deploying a national public safety communications network in the 700MHz D Block to ensure system-wide compatibility in function and operation; and

WHEREAS, local governments continue to work with private sector partners to develop and deploy innovative technology systems that will make high quality internet access available and affordable to their communities, and

WHEREAS, expanding and broadening the engagement of people living and working in cities with their government through technology, drives new solutions to long-standing and emerging civic challenges.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors encourages, supports and enables the liberation of data at all levels of government and the private sector to spur entrepreneurship, foster economic growth and create jobs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors will support and advocate for legislation that spurs national innovation through reformed immigration policies which would help American companies attract and retain the best and the brightest workers by providing green cards for advanced degree graduates in STEM fields from American universities; create a new green card category for entrepreneurs who establish new start-up businesses; reform the current H-1B visa programs to increase the number of technology workers; and better prepare American students for jobs in new technologies by investing significant capital into improving STEM education in the U.S; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors will support efforts such as those of the NTIA to urge states and local governments to collaborate with one another and NTIA in developing and deploying a national public safety communications network in the 700MHz D Block, to ensure system-wide compatibility in function and operation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors will urge NTIA and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to increase the availability of unlicensed spectrum, including potential uses in the 1755-1850 MHz band, and shared uses in other bands, to assist local governments and other users deploy public Wi-Fi systems that will expand free or low-cost and high quality internet access to entire communities; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the United States Conference of Mayors urges Congress and the Administration to expand funding to support initiatives that direct resources to harness the capability of metro economies nationwide in developing regional industry, innovation and export clusters.

ARTS EDUCATION

WHEREAS, the Elementary & Secondary Education Act (ESEA) 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 ESEA, 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, the U.S. Department of Education's most recent study on the status of arts education found that 1.3 million elementary school students fail to get any music instruction, 4 million students fail to get any visual art instruction and 23 million students fail to receive instruction in theater and dance; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Secretary of Education called the arts opportunity gap the widest for children in high-poverty schools and cited it as an absolute equity and civil rights issue; and

WHEREAS, the National Endowment for the Arts report "The Arts and Achievement in At-Risk Youth" found that high-poverty students who had an arts-rich education were found to have better grade point averages, lower drop-out rates in high-school, more likely to enroll in college and get better grades in college than high-poverty students with little 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;

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, to deliver high-quality arts instruction and to integrate the arts with other core subjects:

- We call on Congress to hold hearings on arts education and develop policy to strengthen the arts in the reauthorization of the Elementary & Secondary Education Act; and

- We further urge Congress to appropriate a minimum of \$30 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.

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

WHEREAS, the policy of investing in employment, training and career development is crucial to the nation's economic strength and global competitiveness; and

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

WHEREAS, Congress has cut more than \$1 billion in funding for national workforce programs over the last two years, including support for an array of programs targeting dislocated workers, low-income adults, veterans, disconnected young adults and other highly labor market vulnerable groups; and

WHEREAS, over 9 million people were served nationally last year by the public workforce system, funded through WIA Title I programs - a 248 percent increase in participation rates in just two years – and over 4.5 million WIA participants found jobs through the system; and

WHEREAS, any further cuts to funding will seriously impact the ability of the workforce system to respond to immediate and long-term labor market demands, disrupting business growth and slowing our economic recovery efforts; and

WHEREAS, while the national economy is beginning to expand, 12.8 million Americans remain unemployed, 40 percent of whom have been looking for work for six months or more; and

WHEREAS, a recent Manpower survey found 52 percent of U.S. employers are experiencing difficulty filling critical positions within their organizations—up from only 14 percent in 2010; and

WHEREAS, despite an 8.1 percent unemployment rate, many employers in health care, advanced manufacturing, and other high-growth sectors report that they cannot find the skilled workers needed to fill up to 3.5 million current job openings across the country; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors has long promoted an agenda of smart, sustainable investments in the nation's workforce to put us on a solid path to economic recovery and growth.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to reauthorize the Workforce Investment Act this year, in order to modernize the current workforce investment system to provide Americans with a competitive edge to compete in a global economy by acquiring the skills that growing industries desire; and

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

- Maintain funding for WIA Title I Adult, Dislocated Worker, and Youth state formula grants programs at FY12 pre-rescission enacted levels, and fund national programs under Title I at the levels recommended in the Administration's FY13 budget request; and
- Maintain FY2012 pre-rescission funding levels for adult basic education state grants under Title II of WIA, consistent with the Administration's FY13 budget; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on businesses and private enterprise to:

- Invest in workforce education, training and career exploration counseling to create a world-class competitive workforce;
- Encourage employees to participate in workforce development programs assisting students to achieve life-long learning and careers;
- Collaborate with education, state and local leaders to build a responsive education system including career information and curriculum reflective of current and future business needs, based upon high-growth job trends.

U.S. CONSTITUTION & CITIZENSHIP DAY CONSTITUTION PROJECT

WHEREAS, September 17th is United States Constitution and Citizenship Day and this day commemorates the September 17, 1787, signing of the U.S. Constitution; and

WHEREAS, each educational institution that receives Federal funds for a fiscal year is required to hold an educational program about the U.S. Constitution for its students; and

WHEREAS, September 17, 2012 will mark the 225th Anniversary of the U.S. Constitution; and

WHEREAS, the Constitutional Convention first convened on May 14, 1787 in Philadelphia Pennsylvania and the U.S. Constitution was adopted on September 17, 1787; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Constitution is one of the most influential legal documents in existence as over one hundred countries around the world have used it as a model for their own; and

WHEREAS, according to a 1998 national survey released by the National Constitution Center, more teens know which city has the zip code "90210" than the city in which the U.S. Constitution was written (75 percent to 25 percent); and

WHEREAS, a 2010 national survey conducted by the Center for the Constitution at James Madison's Montpelier found while the vast majority of Americans (86 percent) believe that the Constitution is important to their daily lives, less than one third have taken the time to read all (28 percent) or even most (14 percent) of the 4,400 words; and

WHEREAS, Only 16 percent of young people (ages 18–24) report understanding “a lot” about the Constitution, despite having most recently completed their formal education; and

WHEREAS, BE THE PEOPLE: The Constitution Project celebrates the 225th anniversary of the Constitutional Convention through a unique series of videos, interviews, social media campaigns, events and educational programming and BE THE PEOPLE will highlight how the U.S. Constitution and Constitutional Convention influences all US citizens from students to business and political leaders; and

WHEREAS, BE THE PEOPLE is a non-partisan, joint effort between Republic Square, The Campaign for the American Conversation and the Harvard Kennedy School, the Constitution campaign will culminate on September 17, 2012, United States Constitution and Citizenship Day; and

WHEREAS, Republic Square is non-partisan, non-profit organization that promotes leadership and integrity in politics through the development of political and civic engagement programs. Republic Square organizes initiatives based around its I.D.E.A

methodology - Investigate, Design, Educate, Activate - and the belief that nothing is more powerful than an idea whose time has come.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE RESOLVED, that The US Conference of Mayors encourages: Mayors to visit schools on September 17, 2012 to celebrate the 225th Anniversary of the Constitution and promote United States Constitution and Citizenship Day by recording interviews with BE THE PEOPLE about the Constitution, highlight the special occasion through social media and city marketing assets, and/or host Constitution & Citizenship celebrations in City Hall.

SUPPORTING THE PEACE CORPS

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors is one of the nation's leading organizations dedicated to community building, civic engagement and the promotion of volunteerism; and

WHEREAS, the Peace Corps was established by President Kennedy's executive order on March 1, 1961, with the mission to promote world peace and friendship and a better understanding between Americans and people of other countries; and

WHEREAS, Peace Corps has three goals: 1) To provide trained Americans to live and work overseas for the needs of host countries; 2) to share the American culture and perspectives overseas; and 3) to share the international experience gained overseas with Americans back in the United States; and

WHEREAS, for over 50 years, the Peace Corps has sent more than 200,000 American volunteers to 139 host countries to work on local community projects; and

WHEREAS, more than 9,000 Peace Corps and Peace Corps Response volunteers currently serve in 75 host countries in long-term (27-month) and short-term, high impact (3 to 12 months) assignments providing technical assistance and acquiring international expertise in six program sectors: Youth Development, Education, Community and Economic Development, Health, Agriculture and Environment; and

WHEREAS, over 3,500 Peace Corps volunteers return to the United States each year with demonstrated technical, foreign language, project management, and cross cultural skills and become leaders in many different fields, including public service, education, international business, non-profit management, health, and more.

WHEREAS, more than 200,000 returned Peace Corps volunteers live and work in communities throughout the U.S. and engage in activities that promote global understanding and service while educating Americans about the cultures and people of other countries; and

WHEREAS, the Peace Corps provides free, online resources for American educators and mentors to integrate global issues and cultural awareness into their classrooms through programs such as Coverdell World Wise Schools, and can facilitate the involvement of community and civic groups interested in supporting projects overseas through the Peace Corps Partnership Program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors recognizes the vital work of the Peace Corps around the world and the valuable contribution that returned Peace Corps volunteers make to communities in the United States upon their return from service overseas; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors will encourage local citizens to consider Peace Corps service; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U. S. Conference of Mayors will call on the thousands of returned Peace Corps volunteers living across the United States to support city initiatives and operations either on an organized volunteer basis or through staff recruitment; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors encourages mayors across the United States to recognize March 1 as Peace Corps Day in their communities with events and programs; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors will encourage local educators and community groups to utilize the free resources available through the Peace Corps and collaborations with returned Peace Corps Volunteers to enhance Sister City appreciation in the United States and elsewhere; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors will provide a point of contact to Peace Corps for potential collaborative initiatives, activities and events.

RESOLUTION TO ERADICATE BULLYING FROM AMERICA'S SCHOOLS

WHEREAS, more than 13 million American kids a year are affected by bullying, with some driven to suicide; and

WHEREAS, teens in grades 6 through 10 are the most likely to be involved in activities related to bullying

WHEREAS, approximately 30% of students in the U.S. are involved in bullying on a regular basis, either as a victim, bully or both; and

WHEREAS, mayors are the civic leaders of the nation's cities and can be tremendously impactful to effect positive change in their communities; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors fully supports anti-bullying activities such as The Bully Project and 1 Million Kids; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the nation's mayors will do all they can to call attention to the issue of bullying in schools, and work to develop city-wide programs to combat the problem of bullying to ensure that all students have access to a safe and secure educational environment.

METRO ECONOMIES COMMITTEE

IN SUPPORT OF THE MARKETPLACE FAIRNESS ACT

WHEREAS, all businesses should be required to pay applicable state and local sales tax; and

WHEREAS, many online retailers have thus far circumvented collecting sales taxes on internet-based commerce; and

WHEREAS, this tax loophole is unfairly advantageous toward online retailers and results in both the loss of tax revenue for state and local governments and market conditions that are unfavorable for Main Street and “brick and mortar” small businesses; and

WHEREAS, the bill, S. 1832, the Marketplace Fairness Act, was introduced in the Senate in November 2011 by a bipartisan coalition of Senators; and

WHEREAAS, state and local governments stand to collect approximately \$23 billion in owed tax revenue annually from internet-based commerce pending enactment of the Marketplace Fairness Act; and

WHEREAS, this additional revenue, which is already required to be paid, would go a long way towards assisting local governments to provide needed services to their citizens.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors commends Senator Michael Enzi, Senator Richard Durbin, and Senator Lamar Alexander, the co-sponsors of the Marketplace Fairness Act, for their leadership in assisting local governments through this legislation;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges passage of legislation embodying the principles and key provisions of the Marketplace Fairness Act.

SUPPORTING CHANGE OF MUNICIPAL SECURITIES DEFINITION IN THE VOLCKER RULE

WHEREAS, the Volcker Rule is a specific component (Section 619) of the 2010 Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act originally formulated, in part, by former US Federal Reserve Chairman Paul Volcker; and

WHEREAS, the Volcker Rule essentially aims to restrict commercial banks from engaging in speculative transactions that do not directly benefit their customers; and

WHEREAS, the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency and the Federal Reserve were tasked with designing the specific rulemaking that would implement the Volcker Rule and issued a proposed form of the Rule for public comment which closed on January 13, 2012 ; and

WHEREAS, the regulations are schedule to go into effect on July 21, 2012; and

WHEREAS, the proposed rule seeks to exempt municipal securities from the section related to banking institutions engaging in certain proprietary trading activities in keeping with the statute and Congress' intent; and

WHEREAS, the proposed rule defines “municipal obligations” too narrowly as “obligations of states and political subdivisions thereof” which is under-inclusive and differs from the well-established and relied upon definition of municipal securities that is found in the Securities Act of 1934; and

WHEREAS, if made final, the definition in the proposed rule would exclude thousands of municipal securities, disrupting the municipal market and raising costs for state and local governments; and

WHEREAS, given that one of the principal purposes behind the Volcker Rule is to mitigate risk, the lack of uniformity would unfairly treat economically similar debt instruments differently from one another for the purposes of municipal securities trading; and

WHEREAS, expanding the definition of municipal security in the Volcker Rule would pose no additional risk to banks or the banking system as municipal securities are among the safest assets in the US capital markets.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that those agencies tasked with the final rulemaking amend the definition of municipal securities in the proposed rule and have it align with the common definition of municipal securities found in the Securities Act of 1934 that has served for the past 80 years.

EXPRESSING OPPOSITION TO THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION PROPOSED CHANGES IN NET ASSET VALUE RULES FOR MONEY MARKET MUTUAL FUNDS

WHEREAS, the Securities and Exchange Commission has proposed additional changes to SEC Rule 2a-7 above and beyond the comprehensive amendments adopted in January 2010 to strengthen money market funds and ensure investors are investing in high-quality securities; and

WHEREAS, because of the enhanced liquidity and transparency fostered by the comprehensive amendments adopted in 2010, these changes appear to have helped MMMFs endure recent periods of market turbulence without incident or systemic risk; and

WHEREAS, while state and local governments are supportive of changes that will strengthen the market and improve the quality of securities, some of the additional changes being discussed would undermine the value and utility of Money Market Mutual Funds as well as the municipal bond market; and

WHEREAS, one of the modifications being discussed is changing the stable net asset value (NAV), which is the hallmark of money market mutual funds (MMMF), to a floating net asset value that would be very harmful to state and local governments; and

WHEREAS, forcing funds to float their value would likely eliminate the market for those products by forcing investors, including state and local governments, to divest their MMMF holdings as well as discourage others from using these funds; and

WHEREAS, many state and local governments look to MMMF as an integral part of their cash management practice because they are highly regulated, have minimal risk and are easily booked; and

WHEREAS, in the third quarter of 2011, state and local governments held \$86 billion in MMMFs; and

WHEREAS, many state and local governments have specific policies or statutes that mandate investing in financial products with stable values, and MMMFs are the investment they use to ensure compliance with these policies and statutes; and

WHEREAS, MMMFs are also related to the municipal bond market in that they are the largest investor in short-term municipal bonds (with \$288 billion in assets, tax-exempt money market funds hold 57% of all outstanding short-term municipal debt; and

WHEREAS, changing net asset value from fixed to floating would make MMMFs far less attractive to investors and have an extremely disruptive effect on the investing market as well as the municipal bond market, which could ultimately cost state and local governments millions of more dollars as they would be forced to turn to more costly – and/or more risky – investments as well as face higher costs for issuing debt due to shrinking demand for the market,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors strongly urges the Securities and Exchange Commission not to make changes to the NAV or any further regulatory changes that would disrupt the existing structure of and characteristics of MMMFs and limit choices for state and local governments businesses and other investors, with far reaching consequences for the American economy.

STANDARDIZATION, TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN FEDERALLY-FUNDED GRANTS

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors has a strong commitment to transparency and accountability in how taxpayers money is spent; and

WHEREAS, due to the multitude of federal funding agencies each with unique requirements, the monitoring and reporting on federal funds by local government agencies is complicated, confusing and time consuming; and

WHEREAS, the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) developed standardized reporting requirements for all recipients of stimulus funding, and these reporting requirements added an unprecedented level of transparency and accountability to the spending of federal funds, demanding more data in less time; and

WHEREAS, the lessons learned from the practices that were instituted in ARRA reporting could be replicated in non-ARRA federally-funded grant programs; and

WHEREAS, in an effort to codify more standardization, transparency and accountability in federally-funded grants, H.R. 2146, the “Digital Accountability & Transparency Act of 2012” (DATA Act) was introduced in the 112th Congress by Rep. Darrell Issa (R-CA) and was approved by the U.S. House of Representatives on April 25, 2012 and is now under consideration in the U.S. Senate; and

WHEREAS, the DATA Act creates a new independent agency, “Federal Accountability & Spending Transparency Commission,” to oversee the requirements of the Act, including coordinating and managing grant reporting, establishing common data elements and data standards, and conducting independent analyses and reviews of the spending of federal funds; and

WHEREAS, the DATA Act also establishes a “Federal Accountability & Spending Transparency Advisory Committee,” which would be comprised of local government recipients of federal funds among others and whose purpose is to advise and make recommendations to the Commission on the implementation of the Act; and

WHEREAS, the goals of the DATA Act for greater transparency and accountability in the reporting of federally-funded grants are laudable, there would be significant reporting requirements placed upon state and local governments to comply with the provisions of the DATA Act for all federally-funded grant programs; and

WHEREAS, the DATA Act does not allocate any funding to state or local governments to successfully implement, administer and maintain the new reporting requirements; and

WHEREAS, state and local governments are already fiscally strained, and these additional requirements would impose a serious and significant financial burden upon

state and local governments and even discourage state and local governments from pursuing applicable federal grant opportunities; and

WHEREAS, these additional requirements would also impose a serious and significant administrative burden on state and local governments, demanding time, adequate staff, and appropriate data systems for effective implementation.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors supports the purpose and goals of the DATA Act but respectfully calls upon the U.S. Senate to amend and pass the legislation to provide sufficient funding for state and local governments to implement, administer and maintain the new reporting requirements, and detail a phased-in approach, as well as reasonable timelines and frequency for actual reporting, so that state and local governments have the ability to establish necessary businesses processes, realign data systems, and help mitigate data quality problems; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges the U.S. House of Representatives to agree to such amendments before final passage; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that once the DATA Act is enacted into law, the U.S. Conference of Mayors calls upon the Federal Accountability & Spending Transparency Commission to select local government representatives to the Advisory Committee who have practical experience in the monitoring and reporting of federally-funded grants and that the Commission give strong considerations to the recommendations made by those members of the Advisory Committee who are most impacted by the requirements of the DATA Act.

SUPPORTING COMPREHENSIVE REGULATORY STREAMLINING AND REFORM

WHEREAS, the federal regulatory system must protect public health, welfare, safety and the environment while promoting economic growth, innovation, competitiveness and job creation; and

WHEREAS, President Obama issued a January 18th executive order calling for top to bottom review of federal regulations to get rid of outdated and harmful rules; and

WHEREAS, the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform has placed the issue of regulatory reform as a high priority, seeking input from business, individuals and industries regarding the impediments to navigating the bureaucracy; and

WHEREAS, the US Chamber of Commerce American Jobs and Growth Agenda includes a call for reforming the federal rulemaking process; and

WHEREAS, the Business Roundtable has called upon the Administration and Congress to act swiftly on comprehensive reforms to facilitate major projects such as designate a single agency to have primary permitting responsibility for projects, ensure that permits are processed by multiple agencies in parallel, work with businesses to develop best practices for prompt and timely evaluations, require that permits be issued in 180 days, and create a more stringent process for judicial review of federal permits; and

WHEREAS, President Obama has proposed a plan to re-organize American government to help small business by eliminating or combining government agencies such as those in the Commerce Department; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Transit Administration has expedited pending large projects and is reviewing the way America's transit projects are evaluated, including environmental reviews, in order to speed up the New Starts process and focus on transit options that fit local needs; and

WHEREAS, local governments and the private sector both often struggle with a "one size fits all" regulatory framework, redundant and inconsistent regulations and unnecessary delays in major project approval and processes.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors encourages Congress and the Administration to continue to undertake a comprehensive review of burdensome regulations, and streamline and expedite the federal permitting process for major projects in order to promote job creation, advance economic development and facilitate interaction with the federal government.

SUPPORTING LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE BANKS

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors has identified the need for greater investment in American infrastructure to create, repair, and replace interstate and local transportation networks, including rail, roads, sidewalks, bridges, and water systems; and

WHEREAS, infrastructure investment should also include strategic investments in buildings, parklands, as well as human capital; and

WHEREAS, studies have shown that pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure projects create about 11-14 jobs per \$1 million of spending while road infrastructure projects create about 7 jobs per \$1 million; and

WHEREAS, the federal government in recent years has not provided the financial resources to provide localities with much needed improvements; and

WHEREAS, this lack of federal support has left the United States with more than 70,000 bridges in need of repair, close to half of U.S. roads in inadequate condition, and; and

WHEREAS, in 2008, the World Economic Forum ranked United States infrastructure among the 10 best in the world. By 2011, that ranking dropped to 24th, behind almost all major European nations, Singapore, Australia, and Canada; and

WHEREAS, local municipal leaders have been left to take on rebuilding infrastructure with local funds; and

WHEREAS, establishing local infrastructure banks would provide crucial funding for national projects that would not only yield local benefit, but also create thousands of jobs and stimulate the U.S. economy; and

WHEREAS, mayors in cities like Chicago have created local infrastructure banks to compensate for the lack of federal resources; and

WHEREAS, Chicago has proposed creating an infrastructure trust, which will be funded by investments from private investment companies in partnership with the city, not requiring an increase in taxes, funding not only transportation projects, but also energy efficient projects and local recreation areas.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors supports local infrastructure banks that are necessary to help revitalize local public works projects; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to appropriate funds to supplement local infrastructure projects.

ENABLING ADOPTION OF PENSION BENEFIT ALTERNATIVES THAT REDUCE COSTS TO PUBLIC SECTOR EMPLOYEES

WHEREAS, many local and state governments are struggling to provide retirement security for employees over the long term while dealing with structural budget problems, tax base and investment losses from the economic downturn, and other fiscal pressures;

WHEREAS, dealing with these pension costs contributes to cuts in public services, layoffs, and deferral of infrastructure projects;

WHEREAS, in many cases, the rising costs of providing pension and retirement benefits have resulted in significant contribution increases borne by public sector employees;

WHEREAS, local and state governments are proposing changes to pension plan offerings that can address budget problems while also reducing the cost of retirement benefits to public sector employees through their voluntary election of alternative plans;

WHEREAS, public sector employees should have an opportunity to voluntarily choose participation in a lower-cost benefit plan rather than make higher payments;

WHEREAS, federal law and U.S. Treasury Department guidelines, rulings, and review processes related to determining the tax treatment of retirement plan contributions impact whether local and state governments can effectively offer those choices to employees;

WHEREAS, current federal standards are unclear and could expose employees to new federal taxes on their pension contributions under various new plan options;

WHEREAS, federal administrative, regulatory, and/or legislative action is needed to clarify these tax issues and enable offerings of alternative pension plans that would ensure a more sustainable pension system, reduced costs to employees, and stronger local and state government financial conditions;

WHEREAS, the U.S. Treasury Department has been asked by several local and state governments to review such pension plan proposals and issue such guidance.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors calls upon the U.S. Treasury Department to expeditiously promulgate clarifying guidelines or rules that ensure favorable tax treatment of certain retirement plan contributions picked up by governmental employers when employees are given an option to choose a lower-cost plan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to enact any necessary legislation that would enable such Treasury policies, and otherwise facilitate local and state governments' ability to work cooperatively with employees and unions in addressing long-term structural pension plan issues.

EB5 IMMIGRANT INVESTOR PILOT PROGRAM

WHEREAS, EB5 is the designation for the fifth employment-based preference immigrant visa category established by Congress in 1990; and

WHEREAS, EB5 allocates 10,000 visas annually to foreign investors and their families who invest at least \$1 million (or \$500,000 in a target employment area) which must generate at least 10 jobs; and

WHEREAS, Congress established the Immigrant Investor Pilot Program in 1992 to create regional centers which aid foreign investors by directing and professionally managing their investments while concentrating pooled investments in defined distressed economic zones; and

WHEREAS, Congress has extended the program five times over the last 19 years; and

WHEREAS, there are currently 194 regional centers located in 43 States; and

WHEREAS, since 2003, through regional centers, over \$3.1 billion in foreign capital has been invested in projects in the United States, creating over 65,000 jobs, with no cost to the taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, in 2011 alone the regional centers program created 25,000 jobs through \$1.25 billion in direct foreign investment; and

WHEREAS, in 2012 the regional centers program is on pace for a record breaking year of U.S. job creation and capital formation (coming closer to full implementation than ever); and

WHEREAS, if fully implemented the program could provide in excess of \$2.5 billion in foreign investment each year; and

WHEREAS, the legislation authorizing the regional centers expires on September 30, 2012; and

WHEREAS, the failure to renew the program will result in the loss of billions of dollars in badly needed investments and tens of thousands of new jobs in rural and economically distressed urban areas; and

WHEREAS, legislation, S. 642 and H.R. 2972 has been introduced in both the House and the Senate to permanently authorize the Immigrant Investor Pilot Program; and

WHEREAS, delays in passage of the legislation is causing EB5 investment to dry up.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges the U.S. Congress to pass S. 642 and H.R. 2972 as expeditiously as possible to facilitate foreign investment and to generate new jobs.

CALLING ON CONGRESS TO SUPPORT EMERGING ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES BY “GREENING” THE TAX CODE

WHEREAS, tax incentives for clean energy play a crucial role in incentivizing the development of innovative new technologies and speeding adoption of these technologies; and

WHEREAS, several important tax provisions that promote clean energy technologies, including the 25C residential energy efficiency tax credit, tax credits for manufacturers of high-efficiency appliances, tax credits for the construction of new energy efficient homes, and the 1603 grants-in-lieu-of-tax-credits, expired at the end of 2011 and have yet to be extended; and

WHEREAS, short-term tax credit extensions make it difficult for companies to plan investments and hinder the deployment of clean energy generation; and

WHEREAS, President Obama has called for making the renewable energy production tax credit permanent, eliminating market uncertainty for renewable energy companies.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors call upon Congress to support the extension of tax provisions that incentivize the development and deployment of clean energy technologies; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urge Congress to preserve and make permanent tax credits for renewable energy and energy efficiency as it works on comprehensive corporate tax reform.

STRONG CITIES, STRONG COMMUNITIES

WHEREAS, an absence of coordination between the various agencies of the federal government and city governments has often made the federal city partnership less effective than it should be; and

WHEREAS, if federal resources are properly coordinated and aligned local governments seeking to advance their economic development, infrastructure modernization, environmental quality, public safety and human resources will benefit from access to the knowledge, guidance, and resources made available by federal agencies; and

WHEREAS, the Administration has proposed a new interagency pilot initiative that aims to strengthen neighborhoods, towns, cities and regions around the country by improving the capacity of local governments to develop and execute their economic vision and strategies with increased accessibility to these federal resources and better coordination among the federal agencies; and

WHEREAS, this White House Council on Strong Cities, Strong Communities would help to remove federal agency silos and allow federal government officials to work side-by-side with local leaders to create jobs, improve the business climate, and address local and regional challenges; and

WHEREAS, the six communities which have already been involved in the pilot initiative in the last year have gained from the federal expertise and technical assistance they have received from federal agency advisors who have assisted them to develop comprehensive plans for community development, economic growth and job creation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors commends President Obama and his Administration for the “Strong Cities, Strong Communities” initiative to revitalize American cities and communities economically; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges support for this interagency initiative to strengthen ties between federal and local government by leveraging existing assets, providing new resources, and fostering new connections at the local and national level.

URGING SUPPORT FOR CREDIT UNION SMALL BUSINESS JOBS BILL

WHEREAS, local, main street businesses are the backbone of local economies in every city across the nation; and

WHEREAS, a recent joint report by the Small Business Majority, Main Street Alliance and the American Sustainable Business Council found that 90% of small businesses have credit access problems; and

WHEREAS, credit unions, not-for-profit cooperative financial institutions, are currently inhibited in providing business loans by a cap at 12.25% of total assets; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 2231, the Credit Union Small Business Jobs Bill would allow credit unions to partner with local businesses to create jobs and strengthen our neighborhoods and cities; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 2231 has an extraordinarily broad range of support from conservative think tanks to progressive community and minority advocacy organizations; and

WHEREAS, the adjustment to the lending cap and the additional capital would cost taxpayers nothing.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors supports efforts to strengthen small businesses and local economies and encourages the US Senate to vote in favor of S.2231, the Credit Union Small Business Jobs Bill.

SUPPORTING DEFENSE TRANSITION AND U.S. CITIES

WHEREAS, the President's FY 2013 budget calls for \$525.4 billion in discretionary funding for the base Department of Defense (DOD) budget, a decrease of 1 percent, or \$5.1 billion, below the 2012 enacted level. DOD's Overseas Contingency Operations funding for operations in Iraq and Afghanistan would drop 23 percent; and

WHEREAS, Under the President's proposal, DOD's spending over the next 10 years would be \$486.9 billion less than was planned in last year's budget and savings are to be realized through "targeted reductions in force structure and modernization; reprioritization of key missions and the requirements that support them; and continued reforms and efficiencies in acquisition, management, and other business practices," and

WHEREAS, the National Defense Industrial Association projects that about 50 percent of the proposed cuts will be seen in acquisition, and industries also will be affected by the delay of a significant amount of procurement beyond 2017, and the cancellation of some programs for poor performance; and

WHEREAS, the President's budget also states that the nation's new defense strategy, with its leaner, more agile and flexible force, will require "a properly aligned infrastructure from which to operate, deploy, and train," and requests budget authority for DOD to conduct two additional rounds of base realignment and closure (BRAC), with the first commencing in 2013 and the second in 2015; and

WHEREAS, the Budget Control Act of 2011 requires that, in the absence of agreement in Congress on a federal budget reducing the deficit by \$1.2 trillion between 2013 and 2021, across-the-board cuts (sequestration) necessary to reach this target will be made in both security and non-security spending in January 2013; and

WHEREAS, The Secretary of Defense, our Nation's military leaders, and Defense Industry representatives have warned that the indiscriminate and arbitrary additional cut of \$600 billion from sequestration over a ten year period to the Defense Department would have a catastrophic impact to National Security, leading to tens of thousands of additional military personnel being discharged from Service and the immediate loss of thousands of defense-related jobs in the private sector; and

WHEREAS, the nation's cities are affected, directly and indirectly, by the arbitrary reductions in spending for national defense, and local workforces and economies will be affected by a lower level of military procurement and by the abandonment or downsizing of military facilities located in proximity to urban areas; and

WHEREAS, In this current climate of change, managing the human and economic impact of reduced military industrial activity or a smaller military presence in and around cities must be recognized as a national goal that is shared by DOD and the local governments affected; and

WHEREAS, the formation of the Task Force on Defense Transition and U.S. Cities is the Conference of Mayors' response to the need to establish an open channel of communication on transition issues with the Office of the Secretary of Defense; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors Defense Transition Task Force also seeks to engage non-defense agencies in the development of alternative applications of defense technologies and alternative uses of defense facilities that become available and in its work, the task force will focus on the development of new opportunities for business development and job creation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors encourages Congress and the Administration to:

- Be cognizant of the impact of any realignment of the defense budget on the cities and metro areas in which defense industrial activity plays a significant role in the workforce and economy; and
- Ensure that any realignment of defense spending that occurs does not result in significant and/or abrupt dislocations in workforces that are involved, directly or indirectly, in defense-related work; and
- Support the development of alternative applications of defense technologies and alternative uses of defense facilities that have the potential to open new opportunities for business and job development; and
- Establish an open channel of communication with the nation's mayors on continuing efforts to maintain stability in the local economies in which defense-related activity plays a role; and
- Agree on a budget for FY 2013 and a plan to reduce federal budget deficits without resorting to the sequestration process to be imposed in January 2013 under the Budget Control Act – sequestration that ignores both short-term and long-term policy impacts to health and welfare of our military forces and our Nation's security.

MAYORAL SUPPORT FOR CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION THROUGH THEIR DOLLARWISE AND SUMMER YOUTH CAMPAIGNS

WHEREAS, The United States Conference of Mayors' Council on Metro Economies & The New American City formed the DollarWise Campaign to promote the implementation of financial literacy education into every facet of American life; and

WHEREAS, The DollarWise Campaign has created the Summer Youth Campaign to focus exclusively on summer youth jobs programs with the goal of incorporating a financial literacy component into every summer jobs program in the nation by 2015; and

WHEREAS, The nation's mayors have consistently supported their national financial literacy effort through DollarWise to educate all Americans—specifically youth, seniors, and low- and middle-income individuals—to help ensure a clear understanding of finances; and

WHEREAS, To achieve these ambitious goals, DollarWise has given out Innovation- and Summer Youth grants to 37 cities across the nation and has partnered with many national organizations and government agencies such as the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the Treasury Department, the Consumer Federation of America, and the United States Conference of Mayors' very own Workforce Development Council, among many; and

WHEREAS, DollarWise is now working with the newly created Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (the Bureau) to merge the goals of financial literacy education with consumer protection by linking mayors and their cities with the Bureau; and

WHEREAS, As the U.S. economy emerges from the biggest recession since the Great Depression and unemployment, overall, stands at 8.1%, and youth unemployment at 19%, the mayors of the nation remain committed to giving every citizen the tools to manage their economic future; and

WHEREAS, DollarWise seeks to highlight the best programs around the country so that other mayors can take advantage of the work done by others, the Campaign recognizes the importance of programs such as the EITC-VITA programs, and asset building projects, among many others.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that mayors across our nation are encouraged to fully participate in DollarWise and its programs, such as its grants programs, DollarWise Month, the Summer Youth Campaign, and its partnerships with the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, the Workforce Development Council, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the Consumer Federation of America, and many others; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that mayors are encouraged to incorporate a financial literacy education component into their cities' summer youth employment programs in

collaboration with the DollarWise Summer Youth Campaign and to promote their summer youth to register for the DollarWise Summer Youth contest at www.bedollarwise.com/syc/; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that mayors, through their DollarWise Campaign, call on the private sector to support summer youth employment programs and the incorporation of financial literacy education into said programs by hiring youth directly or by giving grants to local non-profits to hire youth; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that mayors are encouraged to work with their local school districts to introduce financial literacy and education to all their middle and high school students by availing themselves of the best practices from around the nation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that mayors call on The United States Conference of Mayors (through its DollarWise Campaign) to create a strong partnership with the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to create a network between mayors' offices and the Bureau to establish an "early warning system" to detect financial fraud and to protect citizens in their capacity as consumers of financial products.

ENDORISING OFFICES THAT FACILITATE CLOSE COLLABORATION BETWEEN LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, FOUNDATIONS, AND NONPROFITS

WHEREAS, offices of strategic partnerships and liaison offices have been established through collaborations between foundations and governmental entities around the country at the federal, state, and local levels; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of these offices is to ensure a close working relationship between philanthropy and governmental entities to develop a shared agenda, streamline government, and leverage resources to help solve the most pressing problems, including the critical needs in under-served communities; and

WHEREAS, the federal government recently established a number of such offices in many different departments, including the U.S. Department of Education, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the U.S. Department of State, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and the White House Office of Social Innovation; and

WHEREAS, the State of Michigan established in 2003 a Foundation Liaison within the Governor's Office in partnership with the Council of Michigan Foundations and developed joint programs to enhance prisoner reentry, work force development, and early childhood education; and

WHEREAS, a number of cities have benefited greatly from working closely with philanthropic partners to implement a defined office that facilitates dialogue, develops shared agendas, and coordinates the implementation of partnership efforts involving philanthropy, non-profits, and cities and counties; and

WHEREAS, these offices include the Los Angeles Office of Strategic Partnerships, the Denver Office of Strategic Partnerships, the Fairfax County Office of Public Private Partnerships, and the Newark Philanthropic Liaison; and

WHEREAS, recognizing the importance of these collaborative initiatives, the University of Southern California Center on Philanthropy recently convened the leaders of many of these government/philanthropy partnerships to discuss achievements and challenges, define best practices, and establish a network of these offices; and

WHEREAS, the Council on Foundations hosted panels about these programs at its recent annual conference in Los Angeles and facilitates regular convenings of all federal agencies that have established mechanisms to work.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors encourages local governments to work closely with foundation partners to establish appropriate offices that:

- Facilitate ongoing collaboration and communication between local government agencies, foundations, and community partners, all engaged from different vantage points and perches in improving the quality of life and opportunity for people.
- Advocate for and champion a partnership model between local government and philanthropic sectors to galvanize and share expertise, lessons learned, and creativity for civic problem solving.
- Develop, as feasible, a shared agenda and specific joint initiatives that leverage synergy and quicken results between government and philanthropic priorities.
- Help facilitate effective relationships for foundations engaged in partnering with various governmental agencies on existing programs.
- Promote and model a more engaged culture of “civic philanthropy,” actively partnering with foundations and their associations, as well as public and nonprofit leaders in this effort.
- Serve as a coordinating and information-sharing hub for foundations engaged in efforts surrounding the government agencies’ social and environmental policy priorities.
- Proactively link nonprofit leaders and organizations to these efforts.

IN SUPPORT OF THE ECONOMIC CENSUS

WHEREAS, the U.S. Census Bureau conducts the Economic Census which collects reliable business statistics that are essential to understanding the American economy every 5 years-- in years ending in “2” and “7”; and

WHEREAS, only the Economic Census provides information on industry revenues and other measures of American business performance that are consistent, comparable, and comprehensive across industries and geographic areas; and

WHEREAS, businesses in the Nation’s cities will begin receiving the forms in the middle of December 2012 and forms will be due on February 12, 2013; and

WHEREAS, the Economic Census forms will be sent to all but the smallest businesses in nearly every industry in the private, non-farm economy, and every geographic area of the U.S., Puerto Rico, and other U.S. Island Areas and companies will receive forms tailored to their industry and size; and

WHEREAS, the Economic Census forms ask basic operating statistics for each location — employees, payroll, value of goods or services produced in 2012 and businesses can complete the paper forms provided or can report via the Internet, using user names and passwords provided with the forms; and,

WHEREAS, the trade associations and chambers of commerce in American’s cities rely on data from the Census for economic development and business decisions; and

WHEREAS, government agencies, analysts and business organizations nationwide also rely on Economic Census data for planning and key economic reports; and

WHEREAS, local economic development organizations and chambers of commerce in America’s cities can compare the data for the industries in their community to identify opportunities for growth and also compare the data for the industries in their community to neighboring communities, their metro area and state, and to national totals to identify market share and trends; and,

WHEREAS, business owners and managers in America’s cities can analyze the data for their customers at the local level to identify unsaturated or emerging/growing markets for their products and for opportunities for expansion.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the U.S. Conference of Mayors recognizes the importance of the Economic Census to communities across the Nation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on all qualifying businesses to complete the Economic Census when it is received in December 2012 in a timely and accurate manner; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges local economic development organizations and chambers of commerce in America's cities to encourage every qualifying business owner and manager to complete the Economic Census; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the U.S. Conference of Mayors asks every participating business to comply with the Federal law and complete the Economic Census – whose responses are confidential per Title 13 of the U.S. Code); and

FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors supports the robust implementation of the Economic Census.

IN SUPPORT OF THE CENSUS OF GOVERNMENT

WHEREAS, the Census Bureau conducts three censuses: the Decennial Census, the Economic Census, and the Census of Governments,

WHEREAS, the Census of Governments is a complete census of all state and local governments, which includes organizational data (characteristics & number of governments); employment data (number of employees & payroll); and finance data (revenues, expenditures, debt, assets and pensions),

WHEREAS, the Census of Governments is the only source of comprehensive uniform statistics on state and local governments,

WHEREAS, the Census of Governments data are used to calculate the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by the Bureau of Economic Statistics and to calculate the U.S. Flow of Funds by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System,

WHEREAS, the Census of Governments has been conducted since the 1840 Decennial Census where it collected data on the number and types of schools and pupils and has since expanded to gather information on state and local government infrastructure and finance,

WHEREAS, the Census of Governments and its predecessors comprise the Census Bureau's oldest continuous data collection program that directly focuses on the Nation's local governments,

WHEREAS, there are about 90,000 governments in the United States that fall under six types of governments: states, counties, cities, townships, independent schools districts, and special districts,

WHEREAS, the Census of Government is conducted every five years, for years ending in "2" and "7",

WHEREAS, the Census of Government is voluntary in nature.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the U.S. Conference of Mayors encourages every city to participate in the Census of Governments;

FINALLY, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the data collected by the Census of Governments are critical to measuring the nation's economy (GDP) and understanding the current fiscal condition of state and local governments.

IN SUPPORT OF AMENDMENTS TO SECTION 2(B) OF THE LANHAM ACT TO PERMIT MUNICIPALITIES TO REGISTER THEIR FLAGS, COATS OF ARMS, AND OTHER OFFICIAL INSIGNIA

WHEREAS, consistent with its earlier support of a comprehensive plan to combat global piracy and counterfeiting of goods, the U.S. Conference of Mayors recognizes the importance and value of intellectual property and the impact that the counterfeiting of intellectual property and goods (*e.g.*, the loss of tax revenue, money spent on enforcement and the relationship between counterfeit goods and gang activity) has on local government.

WHEREAS, according to the March 2012 report prepared by the Department of Commerce and the United States Patent and Trademark Office (“2012 IP Report”), IP-intensive industries accounted for about \$5.06 trillion in value added, or 34.8 percent of U.S. gross domestic product (GDP), in 2010 and directly and indirectly supported a total of 40.0 million jobs, or 27.7 percent of all jobs in the economy.

WHEREAS, as further stated in the 2012 IP Report: “The granting and protection of intellectual property rights is vital to promoting innovation and creativity and is an essential element of our free-enterprise, market-based system. Patents, trademarks, and copyrights are the principal means used to establish ownership of inventions and creative ideas in their various forms, providing a legal foundation to generate tangible benefits from innovation for companies, workers and consumers.”

WHEREAS, municipal corporations, like U.S. companies, are dedicated to economic growth, and there is no rational basis for preventing municipalities from registering their own official insignia as trademarks in the same manner that other U.S. companies are permitted to register their comparable primary corporate trademarks.

WHEREAS, notwithstanding the above, the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board (“TTAB”) of the United States Patent and Trademark Office recently held in two cases of first impression that Section 2(b) of the Lanham Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1052(b), strictly prohibits municipalities from registering their own official insignia as trademarks, *see In re The Government of the District of Columbia*, No. 77643857 and *In re City of Houston*, No. 77660948 (both cases were decided on January 6, 2012). (Section 2 of the Lanham Act is attached in Annex A.)

WHEREAS, the central basis for the TTAB’s decision was that Section 2(b) unambiguously prohibits *all* applicants from obtaining marks which are or include the coats of arms or other insignia of any municipality and “offers no exception to the prohibition on registration, even when a government entity applies to register its own official insignia.”

WHEREAS, without the ability to register their official insignia, municipalities are not able to obtain the legal rights, benefits and remedies that are afforded to other companies who are able to secure federal trademark registration on the Principal Register for their

comparable primary corporate trademarks, including (i) nationwide constructive use rights that would automatically give municipalities rights outside their immediate geographic areas and (ii) the ability to record a federal registration of their official insignia with U.S. Customs to prevent the importation of infringing and counterfeit goods.

WHEREAS, municipalities are, and will continue to be, adversely affected by the TTAB's interpretation of Section 2(b), including being unable to rely on the rights, benefits, and remedies afforded under the Lanham Act to assist municipalities in preventing the importation and sale of unlawful counterfeit goods that compete directly with those sold by municipalities to generate much needed revenue, such illegal uses often being tied to other criminal activity and impersonation of law enforcement authorities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that members of the U.S. Conference of Mayors support the efforts of municipalities to seek to amend Section 2(b) of the Lanham Act to clarify, consistent with the rights and obligations negotiated in the Paris Convention, that municipalities have the right to seek federal trademark registration of their own official insignia.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors will assist in calling upon Congress to pass needed federal legislation designed to permit municipalities to obtain federal trademark registrations on the Principal Register of their own official insignia so that they may obtain the rights, benefits, and remedies under the Lanham Act to combat profit-making entities and criminal enterprises who willfully and knowingly steal intellectual property, with little or no regard for the costs in jobs, creativity and revenue for cities across America.

ESTABLISH AS A POSITION OF THE UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF MAYORS THAT CORPORATIONS SHOULD NOT RECEIVE THE SAME LEGAL RIGHTS AS NATURAL PERSONS DO, THAT MONEY IS NOT SPEECH AND THAT INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURES SHOULD BE REGULATED

WHEREAS, the United States Constitution and the Bill of Rights are intended to protect the rights of individual human beings also known as “natural persons”; and

WHEREAS, corporations can and do make important contributions to our society, but the United States Conference of Mayors does not consider them natural persons; and

WHEREAS, the right to free speech is a fundamental freedom and unalienable right and free and fair elections are essential to democracy and effective self-governance; and **WHEREAS**, United States Supreme Court Justice Hugo Black in a 1938 opinion stated, "I do not believe the word 'person' in the Fourteenth Amendment includes corporations"; and

WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court held in *Buckley v. Valeo* (1976) that the appearance of corruption justified limits on contribution to candidates, but rejected other fundamental interests that the United States Conference of Mayors finds compelling such as creating a level playing field and ensuring that all citizens, regardless of wealth, have an opportunity to have their political views heard; and

WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court in *Buckley* overturned limits on independent expenditures because it found that the corruption or perception of corruption rationale was only applicable to direct contributions to candidates; and,

WHEREAS, United States Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens observed in *Nixon v. Shrink Missouri Government PAC* (2000) that “money is property, it is not speech,”; and

WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court recognized in *Austin v. Michigan Chamber of Commerce* (1990) the threat to a republican form of government posed by “the corrosive and distorting effects of immense aggregations of wealth that are accumulated with the help of the corporate form and that have little or no correlation to the public’s support for the corporations political ideas” and upheld limits on independent expenditures by corporations; and

WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court in *Citizens United v. The Federal Election Commission* (2010) reversed the decision in *Austin*, allowing unlimited corporate spending to influence elections, candidate selection, policy decisions and sway votes; and

WHEREAS, prior to *Citizens United* decision unlimited independent campaign expenditures could be made by individuals and associations, though such committees operated under federal contribution limits; and,

WHEREAS, given that the *Citizens United* decision “rejected the argument that political speech of corporations or other associations should be treated differently” because the First Amendment “generally prohibits the suppression of political speech based on the speaker’s identity,” there is a need to broaden the corruption rationale for campaign finance reform to facilitate regulation of independent expenditures regardless of the source of the money for this spending, for or against a candidate; and

WHEREAS, a February 2010 Washington Post-ABC News poll found that 80 percent of Americans oppose the U.S. Supreme Court *Citizens United* ruling; and,

WHEREAS, the opinion of the four dissenting justices in *Citizens United* noted that corporations have special advantages not enjoyed by natural persons, such as limited liability, perpetual life, and favorable treatment of the accumulation and distribution of assets; and

WHEREAS, corporations are legally required to put profits for shareholders ahead of concerns for the greatest good of society while individual shareholders as natural persons balance their narrow self-interest and broader public interest when making political decisions; and

WHEREAS, addressing both the *Citizens United* decision, and corporate personhood is necessary; and

WHEREAS, the City Councils of Missoula, Montana; Boulder, Colorado; and Madison, Wisconsin have referred the issue of corporate personhood to their communities for advisory vote.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that it is the position of the United States Conference of Mayors that corporations should not receive the same legal rights as individual human beings (also known as “natural persons”) do; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States Conference of Mayors also determines that the most urgent action needed is to reverse the impacts of United States Supreme Court *Citizens United (2010)* decision and the door it opens for unlimited independent campaign expenditures by corporations that contributes to the undermining impacts that “corporate personhood” has on free and fair elections and effective self-governance; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States Conference of Mayors calls on other communities and jurisdictions and organizations like National League of Cities to join with us in this action by passing similar Resolutions.

IN SUPPORT OF THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY

WHEREAS, at the will of the U.S. Congress, the U.S. Census Bureau implemented the American Community Survey (ACS) in 2005; and,

WHEREAS, the ACS collects demographic, housing, social, economic, and financial characteristics for the Nation in all states, as well as for all cities, counties, and other geographic areas with a population of 65,000 or more; and,

WHEREAS, in 2010, the ACS replaced the traditional decennial census long form – whose primary purpose is to conduct an official count the Nation’s population for the purpose of Congressional apportionment and legislative redistricting ; and,

WHEREAS, the ACS measures the changing demographic, housing, social, economic, and financial characteristics of the Nation; and,

WHEREAS, the Census Bureau releases ACS estimates over 1-year, 3-year, and 5-year periods to ensure that every community of every size is assessed; and,

WHEREAS, the data collected by the ACS ensures that mayors, Members of Congress, and other policymakers have the most current information for policy development, allocation of funds, and program evaluation; and,

WHEREAS, the ACS is conducted under the authority of Title 13, United States Code, which requires the Census Bureau to keep all information strictly confidential; and,

WHEREAS, data is collected from the ACS only for statistical purposes; and,

WHEREAS, the ACS is the only source for annual demographic, social, economic, housing and financial information for every Congressional Districts; and,

WHEREAS, the ACS provides local leaders information to determine the needs of their communities, such as where to build new roads, schools, hospitals, offices, and community centers; and,

WHEREAS, the ACS provides data that the business community use for their investment and hiring decisions, resulting in new jobs in America’s cities; and,

WHEREAS, the local firefighters, police officers, and other emergency personnel use ACS estimates for natural disaster planning and response.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the U.S. Conference of Mayors reaffirms its support for the ACS because it provides vital economic, social, and housing estimates from America’s counties, cities, congressional districts, towns, and communities that are not provided anywhere else; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the U.S. Conference of Mayors acknowledges that the ACS estimates provide invaluable information for tracking the economy and population changes that are critical to the growth of America's cities; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the U.S. Conference of Mayors promotes the business community's use of ACS estimates to learn about the local labor force, new and existing markets, needs of prospective customers, commuting patterns, and more; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the U.S. Conference of Mayors supports the Census Bureau's goal to produce complete and accurate data that meet the needs of America's cities; and,

FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED, the U.S. Conference of Mayors defends the ACS because it provides timely estimates that inform America's mayors in their decision-making.

**CALLING ON CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS AND THE PRESIDENT TO
WORK IN THE SPIRIT OF COMPROMISE TO APPROVE A
COMPREHENSIVE, BALANCED DEFICIT REDUCTION PLAN
IMMEDIATELY**

WHEREAS, the current annual deficit is estimated to be \$1.3 trillion at the end of Fiscal Year 2012, and the national debt stands at \$15.7 trillion as of June 2012; and

WHEREAS, the growth of the annual deficit and the national debt continues to dominate the debate in Washington on all federal spending and tax policy matters; and

WHEREAS, a Congressional Budget Office report issued in May of 2012 warns that failing to change current federal tax and spending policies puts the country on a course leading to another recession in 2013; and

WHEREAS, the private sector depends on the stability of nation's economic policy to guide its investment and growth plans; and

WHEREAS, with the national unemployment rate above 8 percent, job creation must remain the top priority for federal policymakers; and

WHEREAS, the future economic health of the nation depends on Washington's being able to reach a balanced deficit reduction agreement; and

WHEREAS, last year's debt ceiling agreement includes a draconian, indiscriminate, and arbitrary budget sequestration that would devastate both domestic investment and national defense programs; and

WHEREAS, the National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform, also known as the Simpson-Bowles Commission, issued a comprehensive report in December of 2010 that calls for spending reductions, entitlement reforms, and tax policy changes; and

WHEREAS, although we may not agree with all the specific provisions contained in the Simpson-Bowles recommendations, the nation's mayors believe that the commission did a commendable job of working together on a balanced approach to deficit reduction which combines spending cuts with new revenue;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors calls on leaders in Washington to return immediately to the negotiating table in order to reach a comprehensive, balanced deficit reduction agreement, in the spirit of the Simpson-Bowles Commission, that will foster long-term economic growth and prevent the implementation of a draconian budget sequestration that ignores the nation's priorities.

TOURISM, ARTS, PARKS, ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE

IN SUPPORT OF A NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MUSEUM

WHEREAS, the US Conference of Mayors has always supported equality and acknowledge that women have contributed to every aspect of our American life; and

WHEREAS, Women have been pioneers in science, law, the arts, government and so many important aspects of the American story; and

WHEREAS, Women's history is largely missing from our national story – less than 8% of the statues on public lands recognize women leaders and only 13 of the 217 statues in our nation's Capital Building are of women leaders; and

WHEREAS, the National Women's History Museum (NWHM) has spent seven years trying to secure an appropriate location through Congress in Washington DC. The NWHM is a privately funded 501(c)(3) and will privately fund the construction of the Museum. The NWHM is only trying to secure permission from Congress to build on the land between 14th and 15th Street on Independence Avenue on the National Mall; and

WHEREAS, The National Mall largely portrays men in history and The National Women's History Museum will help fill the void. Rather than rewriting current exhibitions at other museums or having to decide what to omit elsewhere to "fit in" women's history, the NWHM will serve to place women's history along side current historical exhibitions; and

WHEREAS, The National Women's History Museum affirms the value of knowing Women's History, illuminates the role of women in transforming society and encourages all people, women and men, to participate in democratic dialogue about our future;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the US Conference of Mayors believes that women's contributions and accomplishments have been significantly overlooked and that women have in fact woven the very fabric of our society through their support and development of culture, families, communities and society; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, US Conference of Mayors strongly urges Congress to support and expedite federal legislation that would allow the construction of the National Women's History Museum on the National Mall.

ARTS EDUCATION

WHEREAS, the Elementary & Secondary Education Act (ESEA) 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 ESEA, 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, the U.S. Department of Education's most recent study on the status of arts education found that 1.3 million elementary school students fail to get any music instruction, 4 million students fail to get any visual art instruction and 23 million students fail to receive instruction in theater and dance; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Secretary of Education called the arts opportunity gap the widest for children in high-poverty schools and cited it as an absolute equity and civil rights issue; and

WHEREAS, the National Endowment for the Arts report "The Arts and Achievement in At-Risk Youth" found that high-poverty students who had an arts-rich education were found to have better grade point averages, lower drop-out rates in high-school, more likely to enroll in college and get better grades in college than high-poverty students with little 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;

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, to deliver high-quality arts instruction and to integrate the arts with other core subjects.

- We call on Congress to hold hearings on arts education and develop policy to strengthen the arts in the reauthorization of the Elementary & Secondary Education Act; and,

- We further urge Congress to appropriate a minimum of \$30 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.

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 100,000 nonprofit arts 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 2012 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.

BOOSTING CULTURAL TOURISM

WHEREAS, there were 62 million international visitors to the United States in 2011 who spent a record \$153 billion on U.S. travel and tourism-related goods and services according to the U.S Department of Commerce; and

WHEREAS, U.S. cultural destinations help grow the U.S. economy by attracting foreign visitor spending; and

WHEREAS, Cultural travelers to the United States out-stay (5.2 nights vs. 4.1 nights) and out-spend (\$631 vs. \$457) other types of international tourists; and

WHEREAS, Marketing of cultural destinations and events accounts for the largest portion of all marketing expenditures (26 percent) by national tourism organizations; and

WHEREAS, Two-thirds (65 percent) of American adult travelers say they included a cultural, arts, heritage, or historic activity or event while on one-way trip of 50 miles or more in the past year. This equates to 92.7 million cultural travelers; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Travel & Tourism Advisory Board recognized earlier this year that the power of the “uniquely American” and “authentic” strength of the cultural arts; and

WHEREAS, mayors and their local arts agencies function as the foundation of the efforts in the communities they represent to boosting cultural tourism; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors supports the U.S. National Travel and Tourism Strategy as developed by the Task Force on Travel and Competiveness led by the U.S. Secretary of Commerce and the U.S. Secretary of the Interior.

BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the implementation of the recommendations contained in the U.S. National Travel and Tourism Strategy, including:

- the recommendation for the Federal Government to partner, and provide grants and technical assistance to local governments and to attract and serve additional visitors;
- to create a national travel and tourism office at the U.S. Department of Commerce;
- to hold summits on travel and tourism to foster communication between Federal agencies and tourism leaders.

ECONOMIC IMPACT STUDY OF THE NONPROFIT ARTS & CULTURE INDUSTRY

WHEREAS, Americans for the Arts, in partnership with The United States Conference of Mayors conducted the fourth national economic impact of the nonprofit arts and culture industry in 182 communities, regions, and states representing every state in the United States; and

WHEREAS, it was found that the nonprofit arts and culture industry generates \$135.2 billion in economic activity annually, which supports 4.1 million U.S. jobs in communities ranging from large urban to small rural; and

WHEREAS, the nonprofit arts and culture industry annually returns \$9.6 billion in federal income taxes, \$6.7 billion in state government revenue and \$6.1 billion in local government revenue; and

WHEREAS, this new *Arts and Economic Prosperity IV* study collected extensive survey data from 9,721 arts and culture organizations and 151,802 of their attendees; and

WHEREAS, data collected from the 151,802 attendees at a range of events reveal an average spending of \$24.60 per person, per event—in addition to the cost of admission—generating \$74.1 billion of valuable revenue for local merchants and their communities annually; and

WHEREAS, 32 percent of audience attendees are non-local—living outside of the county—and spend more than twice that of their local counterparts: \$39.96 vs. \$17.42 per person; and

WHEREAS, findings from *Arts and Economic Prosperity IV* study reveal that America’s nonprofit arts and culture industry generates \$135.2 billion in economic activity every year—\$61.1 billion in spending by arts and culture organizations and an additional \$74.1 billion in event-related spending by arts audiences—resulting in a significant benefit to the nation’s economy:

- Total Expenditures \$135.2 billion
- Full-Time Jobs \$4.1 million
- Household income \$86.7 billion
- Local Government Revenue \$6.1 billion
- State Government Revenue \$6.7 billion
- Federal Income Tax Revenue \$9.6 billion

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors supports the conclusions of the *Arts and Economic Prosperity IV* study and urges mayors across the country to invest in nonprofit arts organizations through their local arts agencies as a catalyst to generate economic impact, stimulate business

development, spur urban renewal, attract tourists and area residents to community activities, and to improve the overall quality of life in America's cities.

ENCOURAGING BUSINESS PARTNERSHIPS WITH THE ARTS

WHEREAS, businesses play a key role in ensuring the health and vitality of the nation's arts sector with nearly \$3 billion in arts funding from small, midsize and large companies, (2010 Americans for the Arts' Business Committee for the Arts Triennial Survey); and

WHEREAS, U.S. employers rate creativity/innovation among the top five job 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

WHEREAS, businesses, both those that now give to the arts and those that don't, agree that arts can benefit them in several ways. 79% say the arts can increase name recognition and 74% say that the arts offer networking opportunities and the potential to develop new business. Half agree that arts support has the potential to increase their bottom line; and

WHEREAS, when businesses partner with local arts organizations, they partner with the whole city because the arts are essential to the health and vitality of neighborhoods, cities, states and our nation. They enhance community development, create jobs, spur urban renewal, attract new businesses, draw tourism dollars, and create an environment that attracts skilled and educated workers; and

WHEREAS, the Business Committee for the Arts Executive Board comprised of corporate CEOs affirms the role of the arts in advancing communities and business goals; and

WHEREAS, *the partnership Movement*, a new public service advertising and resource campaign from Americans for the Arts is designed to provide businesses and arts organizations with the resources they need to make meaningful collaborations—partnerships that not only support a healthy, creative, and artistic community, but that also give businesses a competitive advantage.

WHEREAS, *The partnership Movement* demonstrates how arts partnerships help businesses enhance the critical thinking and creative skills of their workforce. It also prepares arts organizations to partner with businesses in new and innovative ways to advance business goals and enhance communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, The United States Conference of Mayors urges local businesses and arts organizations to collaborate more together and get involved with *the partnership Movement*.

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 47 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 \$706 million annually in local government funding, \$263 million in state government funding to the arts, and \$13.28 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's "Our Town" initiative invests \$6.6 million in grants to 51 communities in 34 states to support planning and design projects, and arts engagement strategies; and

WHEREAS, in the 2012 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 83 equal-weighted, national-level indicators of arts and culture activity that covers a 13-year period, found that while the index increased this year from 96.3 to 96.7, federal funding

for the arts is as crucial as ever given the 6.7 point overall decline from 103.4 in 2007; 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 support a level closer to the President's budget request to fund these agencies in the FY 2013 appropriations bills at \$155 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 FURTHER 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.

INTERNATIONAL 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 30, 2013 cities will celebrate International 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 Day and Jazz Appreciation Month for the past five years; and

WHEREAS, the month of April 2013 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, International Jazz Day April 30, 2013 and to celebrate the month of April as Jazz Appreciation Month.

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF TSA'S TRUSTED TRAVELER PROGRAM,
PRE✓™ AND THE BLUE RIBBON PANEL**

WHEREAS, travel and tourism supports 14.4 million jobs across the nation and generated \$1.9 trillion in economic output for the U.S. economy in 2011;and

WHEREAS, each day in the United States, roughly two million people travel by air; and

WHEREAS, implementing a key component of the Transportation Security Administration's (TSA) intelligence-driven, risk-based approach to security, TSA Pre✓™ enhances aviation security by placing more focus on pre-screening individuals who volunteer to participate in order to expedite the travel experience; and

WHEREAS, Pre✓™ has now screened over 1 million passengers,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors applauds the Department of Homeland Security and Transportation Security Administration for its intelligence-driven, risk-based approach to security and expanding Pre✓™ to an additional 28 airports in 2012;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors supports expanding enrollment opportunities in Pre✓™ to make the program accessible to more Americans, which will improve the efficiency of security screening and increase travel.

SUPPORTING ENHANCED U.S. MAYORS-INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS ON MAJOR SPORTING EVENTS

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 seeks to double American exports and promote international export financing; 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 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.

WHEREAS, the Government of the United States and the Government of Brazil signed a Memorandum of Understanding to Support State and Local Cooperation.

WHEREAS, the Government of the United States and the Government of Brazil signed a Memorandum of Understanding to Support the Organization of Major Global Sporting Events.

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, by engaging with Brazilian State and Local governments in cooperation surrounding major sporting events including the 2014 FIFA World Cup and the 2016 Olympic Games.

Projected Cost: Unknown

IN SUPPORT OF THE NATIONAL SEPTEMBER 11 MEMORIAL AND MUSEUM

WHEREAS, on September 11, 2001, the United States was attacked and our world was changed forever when terrorists murdered nearly 3,000 innocent people at the World Trade Center, at the Pentagon, and aboard United Flight 93, which crashed in a field near Shanksville, Pennsylvania, in the largest terrorist attack ever committed in the United States; and

WHEREAS, established in 2003, the National September 11 Memorial and Museum at the World Trade Center Foundations, Inc., a nonprofit organization described in section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, has been dedicated to raising funds for and overseeing the design, construction, and operation of the Memorial and Museum at the World Trade Center site; and

WHEREAS, the Memorial and Museum will ensure that future generations never forget the thousands of innocent men, women and children murdered by terrorists on September 11, 2001 in New York, Pennsylvania and Virginia as well as those who dies in the terrorist bombing at the World Trade Center on February 26, 1993; and

WHEREAS, since opening to the World on September 11, 2011, the 10th anniversary of the 9/11/01 attacks, the 9/11 Memorial has been visited by over 2.5 million people from all 50 states and over 150 foreign countries, reflecting the enormous impact the attacks had across this nation and the world; and

WHEREAS on September 9, 2011 Senators Inouye (HI), Schumer (NY) and Gillibrand (NY) introduced the National September 11 Memorial and Museum Act of 2011, which would provide for a permanent authorization of funds to support the operations and maintenance of the National September 11 Memorial and its accompanying Museum which will open in 2013; and

WHEREAS, throughout our nation's history, Congress has stepped forward to authorize operating funds, in public/private partnerships with private donors, for memorials and museums of national significance; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the United States Conference of Mayors urges Congress to pass legislation that would promote the purposes of the Memorial; including, remembering and honoring thousands of innocent victims; respecting the site made sacred through tragic loss; recognizing the endurance of the individuals who survived the attacks; the courage of the individuals who risked their lives to save others; and the compassion of the individuals who supported the people of the United States in our darkest hours.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States Conference of Mayors urges Congress to pass the National September 11 Memorial and Museum Act of 2011 that would provide permanent funding for the National September 11 Memorial and Museum.

IMPROVED STAFFING AND ACCOUNTABILITY AT AIRPORT CUSTOMS FACILITIES

WHEREAS, America’s airports mean business – facilitating international trade and tourism that are critical to this nation’s economy; and

WHEREAS, the United States exported more than \$2.1 trillion in goods and services in 2011, supporting 9.7 million American jobs; and

WHEREAS, more than 60 million international tourists visited the United States in 2011 spending \$153 billion, providing employment for 7.6 million Americans, and \$1.2 trillion in economic activity; and

WHEREAS, our government and business community have launched “Brand USA,” a new tourism marketing entity that aims to increase the number of foreign visitors by encouraging them to visit the United States; and

WHEREAS, the United States Government has committed significant resources to expediting and improving the issuance of visas to increase the number of international tourists and businesspeople who can visit our country; and

WHEREAS, Requiring the CBP to install a minimum of 10 Global Entry kiosks at all large hub airports processing international flights.

WHEREAS, in the summer of 2011 our nation’s largest international airports were confronted with long lines and wait times at its international entry points, caused by reduced funding due to the global financial downturn that, in turn, lead to reduced airport staffing by federal government agencies; and

WHEREAS, our nation’s airports are working to accommodate international tourists and business people by constructing, modernizing and/or expanding the facilities used by the United States Government for processing visitors and providing airport staff to answer questions and assist passengers waiting for entry into the United States; and

WHEREAS, since the summer of 2011, the U.S. Customs and Border Protection Agency (CBP) has made significant progress in reducing wait times by increasing the amount of staff at international airports and improving deployment models;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors calls on the Federal government to further address these issues by:

- Investing additional resources in staffing for the CBP and the other agencies involved in international entry at airports.
- Developing performance standards to be followed by federal agencies involved in the processing of international visitors to ensure sufficient staffing has been provided to process visitors within 30 minutes.

- Providing reports on daily wait times logged in 30 and 60 minute metrics.
- Negotiating International Reciprocity Agreements to increase the number of nations participating in the Global Entry Program which expedites the processing of visitors who register for the program.
- Instituting a pilot program to allow an easier process for in-transit passengers using United States airports to connect on international-to-international flights.
- Requiring the CBP to install a minimum of 10 Global Entry kiosks at all large hub airports processing international flights.

IN SUPPORT OF THE CREATING AMERICAN PROSPERITY THROUGH PRESERVATION ACT

WHEREAS, Representatives Aaron Schock (R-IL) and Earl Blumenauer (D-OR), and Senators Ben Cardin (D-MD) and Olympia Snowe (R-ME), have introduced the bipartisan Creating American Prosperity through Preservation (CAPP) Act (H.R. 2479 & S. 2074), and

WHEREAS, H.R. 2479 & S. 2074 (the CAPP Act) would increase the Federal Historic Tax Credit from 20 percent to 30 percent of qualified rehabilitation expenditures for smaller “Main Street” projects involving \$5 million or less in expenditures, and

WHEREAS, the CAPP Act would increase the credit amount by 2 percent for those projects that increased the building’s energy efficiency by 30 percent, and

WHEREAS, the CAPP Act would eliminate federal taxation of State historic tax credits, further catalyzing the effect of both credits, and

WHEREAS, the CAPP Act would also restore the initial Congressional intent to make buildings that are 50 years old, rather than only those built prior to 1936, eligible for the 10 percent rehabilitation credit, and

WHEREAS, the CAPP Act would facilitate non-profit sponsorship of historic tax credit projects by limiting the definition of disqualified leases, and

WHEREAS, the Federal Historic Tax Credit is a proven job creating, community revitalizing investment in cities throughout the nation, and

WHEREAS, the Federal Historic Tax Credit is a government program that more than pays for itself, with the cumulative \$19.2 billion cost of federal historic tax credits having generated \$24.4 billion in federal taxes from the projects facilitated by the credits, and

WHEREAS, the Federal Historic Tax Credit has catalyzed the rehabilitation of 38,000 buildings, created 2.2 million jobs and leveraged nearly \$100 billion in private investment,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the United States Conference of Mayors supports the Federal Historic Tax Credit and the general goals of H.R. 2479 & S. 2074 because of the well documented economic and job benefits to the nation’s cities, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States Conference of Mayors urges Congress to enhance the Federal Historic Tax Credit as outlined in H.R. 2479 & S. 2074.

TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

PRESERVING LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITY OVER SATELLITE DISH INSTALLATION LOCATIONS

WHEREAS, the Federal Communications Commission, as directed by Congress in Section 207 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, adopted the Over-the-Air Reception Devices (OTARD) Rule to prohibit governmental and nongovernmental restrictions on a viewers' ability to receive video programming signals from direct broadcast satellites (DBS), broadband radio service providers (formerly multichannel multi-point distribution service or MMDS), and television broadcast stations (TVBS); and

WHEREAS, The OTARD Rule (47 C.F.R. Section 1.4000) applies to video antennas including direct-to-home satellite dishes that are less than one meter (39.37") in diameter (or of any size in Alaska), TV antennas, and wireless cable antennas and prohibits most governmental and nongovernmental restrictions that: (1) unreasonably delay or prevent installation, maintenance or use; (2) unreasonably increase the cost of installation, maintenance or use; or (3) preclude reception of an acceptable quality signal; and

WHEREAS, in 1999, the Commission amended the rule to extend its protections to rental property so long as the renter had an exclusive use area, such as a balcony or patio, in which to deploy an OTARD; and

WHEREAS, The Satellite Broadcasting & Communications Association (SBCA) has filed a Petition for Rulemaking seeking to amend the exclusive use provision of the OTARD Rule to empower only property owners or homeowners' associations to restrict reception devices to areas under user's exclusive control and bar any such restrictions imposed by state or local governments.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors calls on the FCC to reject the SBCA's petition to amend the OTARD Rule. The FCC's direction from Congress was to bar enforcement only when a restriction violates the OTARD Rule, not dependent on whether the source of the restriction is a homeowners' association or a municipal zoning regulation. Prohibition on municipal regulation would force every homeowners' association and every apartment owner in the country to enact its own satellite dish placement rules. This would likely lead to greater confusion regarding the deployment of over the air devices, not less.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Commission should find that the OTARD Rule does not preempt local zoning ordinances that require OTARDs not be deployed on the front façade of a building when an alternative location can be employed that does not delay installation, unreasonably burden the user, nor materially degrade the quality of a signal.

FEDERAL FUNDING FOR PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE PROGRAMS

WHEREAS, communities that have invested in pedestrian and bicycle projects have benefited from improved quality of life, a healthier population, greater local real estate values, more local travel choices, and reduced air pollution; and

WHEREAS, federal investments in pedestrian and bicycle programs are highly cost-effective relative to road-building projects, reduce accidents by providing safe and convenient places to walk and bicycle, and decrease U.S. dependence on foreign oil; and

WHEREAS, according the National Household Travel Survey in 2009, 12.1% of all trips in the United States were made by biking or walking, including rural areas; and

WHEREAS, according to the 2008 National Survey of Bicyclist and Pedestrian Attitudes and Behavior, 84% of Americans polled agreed, strongly or somewhat, that bicycling is “a great form of exercise” for them; and

WHEREAS, the American Community Survey reports that between 2000 and 2008, the number of people in the U.S. who commuted to work via bicycle increased by 43%; and between 2000 and 2010, the number of people in the largest 70 cities in the U.S. who commuted to work via bicycle increased by 63%; and

WHEREAS, as part of the 2005 federal transportation bill SAFETEA-LU, the Nonmotorized Transportation Pilot Program (NTPP) funded four communities with \$25 million each spread over four years to promote walking and biking; and

WHEREAS, there is a concerted effort being made by national bicycle and pedestrian advocates to elevate trails, walking, and biking nationally by greatly increasing the federal investment in pedestrian and bicycle projects through programs based on the success of the NTPP;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urges Congress to protect and increase funding for bicycle and pedestrian programs in the next transportation reauthorization law through transportation enhancements, an expanded NTPP, support for Safe Routes to School, the Transportation Community Systems Preservation Program (TCSP), expanding the Recreational Trails program and other federal transportation programs.

IN SUPPORT OF ALTERNATIVE MODES OF TRANSPORTATION, SUCH AS BIKESHARING PROGRAMS, AS A MEANS TO INCREASE TRANSPORTATION MOBILITY AND MODE CHOICE

WHEREAS, expanded use of alternative modes of transportation improves air quality, reduces our dependence on foreign oil, improves mobility and can promote a more active and healthy lifestyle; and

WHEREAS, cities and states throughout the nation are implementing and expanding programs to enable and encourage the use of cleaner, healthier modes of transport; and

WHEREAS, use of alternative modes of transportation helps all users of the transportation system, including those who choose to or must drive, by reducing congestion and improving safety among other benefits; and

WHEREAS, alternative modes of transportation often support each other— for example, bike sharing programs improve the effectiveness of the existing transit system, integrating into the existing network and providing valuable connections and flexibility; and

WHEREAS, bicycling, whether on one’s own bike or using a shared bike, is a convenient, affordable, healthy, environmentally-friendly and fun method of transportation, especially for trips under three miles; and

WHEREAS, increased use of alternative modes of transportation helps make communities more livable by increasing safety, improving the connectivity of our transportation network, reducing congestion and improving air quality; and

WHEREAS, federal funding for programs that provide, enable and/or increase the availability of alternative modes of transportation has come under increasing attack at the federal level;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors strongly endorses the planning and implementation of alternative modes of transportation throughout the United States; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges the United States Department of Transportation and the United States Congress to provide substantial new funding and other incentives, including tax credits, for alternative means of transportation, and to facilitate the exchange of information between interested parties.

STATE SUBSTITUTION FOR NEPA RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, it is in the interest of the United States of America, its States, and municipalities to develop 21st Century infrastructure in an expedient, cost effective, resourceful manner to create jobs and increase economic competitiveness;

WHEREAS, in 2012, bipartisan legislation introduced in both chambers of Congress have proposed elimination of duplicative environmental reviews and other measures to accelerate project delivery, including new policy allowing States to apply to the Secretary of Transportation to use its own environmental laws and regulations in lieu of federal environmental laws and regulations;

WHEREAS, the President has championed initiatives to increase U.S. exports to make America more competitive globally;

WHEREAS, the Federal Highway Administration estimates that 18,000 jobs are created for every \$1 billion invested in public infrastructure;

WHEREAS, the economic impact of a nine-year delay to a \$300 million construction project is the loss of 3,050 jobs and \$92 million in GDP, according to a 2011 report by the Orange County Transportation Authority;

WHEREAS, states with heavily traveled goods-movement corridors, ports, airports, and border crossings urgently require assistance to streamline project reviews to achieve national trade economic growth objectives;

WHEREAS prompt, streamlined project delivery in states with heavily traveled goods-movement corridors positively affects other transportation and infrastructure projects through the nation;

WHEREAS, limited public dollars for infrastructure increase the importance of finding efficiencies in the delivery of projects;

WHEREAS, the federal National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is designed to ensure a thorough, rigorous and public process to assess adverse environmental effects of a project;

WHEREAS, some states have adopted environmental laws equal to or exceeding the rigorous federal NEPA requirements in protecting the environment, providing for public review, and mitigating impacts;

WHEREAS, in States with environmental laws equal to or exceeding the federal NEPA requirements many projects must still undergo review under NEPA in addition to state environmental laws, creating duplicative reviews that are costly in time and public resources;

WHEREAS, long, duplicative environmental reviews are fiscally and environmentally irresponsible due to the time it takes to get a transit or highway project approved and implemented;

WHEREAS, increased project costs due to inefficient, duplicative review and oversight of environmental laws means fewer funds available to meet transportation mobility needs and leads to a reduction in the potential for job creation from infrastructure investments;

WHEREAS, the independent, bipartisan National Surface Transportation Policy & Revenue Study Commission (Section 1909 Commission) cites that major highway projects take approximately 13 years from initiation to completion, while the average Federal Transit Administration New Starts transit project takes 10 + years to complete;

WHEREAS, according to the Section 1909 Commission, significant delays to project delivery can increase the costs of projects by up to 7% annually;

WHEREAS, the Surface Transportation Project Delivery Pilot Program was created by SAFETEA-LU in 2005, which allowed five states to accept the role of the federal government in ensuring projects meet NEPA requirements;

WHEREAS, this streamlining program has been a positive step towards accelerating project delivery in the one state where it has been implemented;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls upon Congress to allow states the opportunity to substitute their environmental laws for federal environmental laws where state laws are substantially equivalent to or exceed federal environmental laws, for the purposes of eliminating costly and duplicative reviews.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors believes that environmental stewardship and job creation can be simultaneously achieved by removing duplication of environmental review documents while ensuring appropriate oversight of State and federal environmental laws which will protect the environment and the taxpaying public.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT GRANT PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Department of Transportation's Capital Investment Grant Program, which includes fixed guideway projects commonly known as New Starts and Small Starts, is the federal government's primary financial resource for supporting locally planned, implemented, and operated major transit capital investments; and

WHEREAS, Americans need good transportation choices that improve mobility, enhance access to jobs by spurring economic development, and encourage sustainable communities; and

WHEREAS, the Capital Investment Grant program funds investments in transit systems all over the country, including commuter rail, light rail, heavy rail, bus rapid transit, streetcars, and ferries; and

WHEREAS, the Capital Investment Grant program expands transportation access for those who depend on it, especially working families, communities of color, seniors, youth, and people with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, President Obama's proposed Fiscal Year 2013 budget requests \$2,235,486,000 in funding for the Capital Investment Grant program; and

WHEREAS, the recommended projects, included in President Obama's proposed Fiscal Year 2013 budget, will put thousands of Americans to work building the vital infrastructure the nation needs to improve access to jobs;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges the Congress to fully fund the Department of Transportation's New Starts program at the President's requested level of \$2,235,486,000.

AMERICA FAST FORWARD: REBUILDING OUR INFRASTRUCTURE AND GENERATING JOBS

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 creating high quality jobs; and

WHEREAS, America's unemployment rate remains at 8.1 percent; 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, the Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) of 1998 established a Federal credit program for eligible transportation projects of national or regional significance; and

WHEREAS, America Fast Forward would support the creation of a 21st century national surface transportation system by expanding and enhancing TIFIA; and

WHEREAS, the bipartisan Senate transportation bill, Moving Ahead Progress for the 21st Century (MAP-21), includes America Fast Forward and passed the Senate with overwhelming bipartisan support; and

WHEREAS, for nearly 30 years, a portion of Federal motor fuels tax revenues has been dedicated to transit investment, providing a reliable and predictable source of funding for transit investment and should remain dedicated to public transportation; and

WHEREAS, the House has sought to drastically reduce funding for transit, which would result in dramatic job losses nationwide and make it more difficult for working families to have affordable transportation to and from their jobs; and

WHEREAS, the final conference report for the surface transportation bill should include language that would allow public transit agencies to use a portion of their federal transit funding for day-to-day operating expenses;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to expeditiously complete a conference agreement on transportation reauthorization legislation that includes America Fast Forward and continues the dedication of Highway Trust Fund dollars to public transit as well as highway and bridge infrastructure projects across the nation.

IN SUPPORT OF HIGH-SPEED RAIL

WHEREAS, high-speed rail corridors can expand and fundamentally improve passenger transportation in the geographic regions they serve and will further connect communities and economic centers in complement to existing highway, aviation, and public transit systems across the country; and

WHEREAS, high-speed rail will spur economic development along corridors, connect markets, and create tens-of-thousands of shovel-ready jobs, new manufacturing positions, and other permanent positions throughout the country in a time when the American worker needs such opportunity; and

WHEREAS, high-speed rail will increase traveling options as an alternative to driving or flying and will promote domestic tourism by providing a service that is fast, safe, and reliable; and

WHEREAS, high-speed rail will help advance the United States' reputation as a sustainable nation by curbing its dependence on oil, protecting environmental quality and promoting energy efficiency; and

WHEREAS, high-speed rail will offer great public benefit as it improves the quality of life, in urban and rural communities alike, by providing rail access to new communities and improving the reliability, speed and frequency of existing lines; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports high-speed rail expansion and development and applauds investment in American infrastructure, economic development, tourism as it concurrently advances public well-being and U.S. global competitiveness.

NATIONAL EXPORTS AND PORTS POLICY

WHEREAS, cities and their metro economies dominate the US export market, accounting for 88% of export merchandise value and housing all the nation’s major seaports; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors in its IHS Global Insight report “US Metro Economies: Exports in the Next Decade” forecasts that exports will account for nearly 40% of real US Gross Domestic Product (GMP) growth in the coming decade (2011-2020)—a dramatic increase over the last decade when exports accounted for 26.5% of real GDP growth; and

WHEREAS, over the long run, US export growth will be strong, averaging 8% annually during the next 10 years, outpacing imports; and

WHEREAS, the President, through his National Export Initiative, has established a goal of doubling the nation’s exports by 2015; and

WHEREAS, to take advantage of this export growth potential for our national and metro economies, investment in critical freight transportation infrastructure is needed to spur higher productivity, achieve cost efficient transport of goods destined for export, and enhance global competitiveness; and

WHEREAS, to be efficiently allocated, this investment should be targeted to the multimodal movement of goods on the nation’s most significant freight corridors, and support investment in intermodal connectors at freight terminals (gateways), including ports, rail yards and distribution centers, that support national and regional connectivity; and

WHEREAS, U.S. ports face increased competition from Canada and Mexico who are building up their seaports and rail lines to lure U.S. cargo away from U.S. ports; and

WHEREAS, U.S. ports expect changes in global shipping routes due to the expansion of the Panama Canal which is set to open in early 2015, cargo growth through the Suez Canal, and the opening of Artic shipping routes; and

WHEREAS, the size and capacity of the ships deployed in the world’s container fleet is growing rapidly, as shippers seek more cost efficiencies by leveraging economies of scale; and

WHEREAS, in 2011, 18% of the new container ships on order were larger than 5,000 TEUs, or twenty-foot equivalent units (the standard measure for containerized cargo); and

WHEREAS, nearly 90% of the new container ships set to be built between 2012 and 2015 will exceed the 5,000 TEU mark and nearly half of these on-order ships will exceed the 10,000 TEU mark; and

WHEREAS, in order to accommodate these larger ships slated for use by global shipping companies, US ports must be deepened to at least 50 feet and that federal authorization and funding is required for such dredging projects; and

WHEREAS, over the past 10 years, containerized cargo volume at U.S. ports has grown at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 4.1 percent, culminating in a total of more than 41 million TEUs handled by US ports in 2010; and

WHEREAS, under reasonable growth projections in the U.S. economy and world trade, the number of containers handled at U.S. ports could double in 20 years; and

WHEREAS, over the past five years annual Harbor Maintenance Tax (HMT) expenditures for channel maintenance have averaged less than \$800 million, creating a surplus but leaving users with inadequately maintained channels; and

WHEREAS, the annual need for maintenance dredging is in the range of \$1.3 to \$1.6 billion, and that this need is comparable to the funds collected; and

WHEREAS, the federal government has not fully utilized the funds for needed maintenance dredging -- rather, it has allowed a large surplus to build up in the trust fund in order to mask the federal deficit or fund other programs; and

WHEREAS, a recent study by the Manpower Group of Milwaukee found that 52% of employers report they cannot match job openings with available labor due to insufficient education, skills and training; and

WHEREAS, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, 13.8% of individuals 25 years or older without a high school degree are jobless, only 9.6% of those with a high school diploma are; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, The United States Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to adopt a National Freight Policy to ensure imported cargo and goods destined for export be transported over a reliable, cost-effective, and efficient intermodal transportation system; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the nation's mayors support legislation that would require the US Department of Transportation to work with state, regional and local governments, private sector freight stakeholders, and port authorities to define a priority system of corridors and gateways of national and regional significance, and make funding available to support freight mobility and goods movement through a national multimodal/intermodal system; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the nation’s mayors encourage the Administration, cities and port authorities to integrate freight policy with environmental policy thereby reducing harmful air emissions and expediting nationally important intermodal transportation projects; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the nation’s mayors call on Congress to pass legislation that directs the annual distribution of all annual sums collected through the Harbor Maintenance Tax for the purposes for which it is intended; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the nation’s mayors continue to strengthen the partnership between the U.S. Department of Commerce International Trade Administration, the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, the Small Business Administration and other federal agencies in the development of metro export strategies and initiatives involving local businesses, labor organizations, port authorities, educational and research institutions, and the tourism industry; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The US. Conference of Mayors calls on Congress and the administration to work with state and local government and educational systems to close the manufacturing production capacity gap and fill job openings in high skilled occupations by increasing the pool of skilled US trade workers and provide greater advanced training, through demand-driven and targeted workforce development programs, to American workers (especially veterans) in the science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) skills, which manufacturers need but have difficulty locating.

REQUIRE THAT THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY FOCUS ON THE TREATMENT AND STORAGE OF RADIOACTIVE WASTE ON-SITE WHERE APPROPRIATE TO MITIGATE HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS OF TRANSPORTING LOW, HIGH AND MIXED LEVEL WASTE TO OFFSITE TREATMENT FACILITIES

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors recognizes that the treatment of nuclear waste is a regional and national issue that requires the collaboration of all levels of government to develop practical and safe solutions; and

WHEREAS, nuclear waste treatment sites across the U.S. currently have documented leakage of strontium-90, tritium, uranium, and technetium-99 among other toxic pollutants into groundwater; and

WHEREAS, there are already many barriers to quickly and adequately clean up the existing nuclear waste at current nuclear waste treatment sites, it is unacceptable to consider importing additional waste from other sites; and

WHEREAS, future receipt of off-site waste at these sites are projected to have significant adverse long-term impacts on the groundwater, which ultimately impact other bodies of water; and

WHEREAS, transporting low, high and mixed level radioactive materials across the nation on major interstates, highways and railways will expose countless communities across the country to hazardous radiation; and

WHEREAS, a study by The U.S. Department of Energy several years ago estimated that over 800 adults would die from cancer due to radiation emitted from the trucks in the Northwest region alone; and

WHEREAS, a truck or railway accident or terrorist attack involving transported low, high and mixed level nuclear waste would render entire cities and surrounding areas uninhabitable; and

WHEREAS, in the event of a radiological emergency in or near a city, significant impacts could create a financial burden of millions of dollars to the emergency management agencies charged with protecting the health, safety, welfare of its citizens and visitors; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on The U.S. Department of Energy to focus on the treatment and storage of radioactive waste on-site, which is the best opportunity for our communities to avoid further health and environmental impacts from waste, produced from other regional, decommissioned nuclear facilities.

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 encourages mayors to lead by example and 'green' local fleets while 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, as well as the deployment of electric charging infrastructure in communities throughout the country.

MISCELLANEOUS

SPECIAL RESOLUTION IN HONOR OF MAYOR ANTONIO VILLARAIGOSA MAYOR OF LOS ANGELES PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF MAYORS JUNE 2011-JUNE 2012

WHEREAS, Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa has led The United States Conference of Mayors from June 2011-June 2012 , serving the nation's mayors as their President with great distinction; and

WHEREAS, as Conference of Mayors President, Mayor Villaraigosa has been a tireless and eloquent advocate for cities and metro areas; and

WHEREAS, he has expressed his vision for urban America with strength and forthright language, as the following quotes show:

- **Cities –The Nation's Economic Engines:** "Our cities and our metro regions are our country's economic engines. We can put people to work by building the foundation this country needs to compete around the world;" and
- **Our Common Sense Jobs Agenda:** Putting People Back to Work: "It has become increasingly obvious – we need a concerted and comprehensive effort to get Americans back to work by making the strategic long-term investments in our infrastructure and in our people."

"Mayors have been a consistent voice for sound economic and fiscal policies. We presented our **Common Sense Jobs Agenda** with policies to boost our economy in the short term. And we presented policies that will lay the foundation for a broad-based expansion in the long term. **Congress followed our lead when it passed the extension of the payroll tax cut and unemployment benefits. Now Congress should get down to business and pass the rest of the agenda!**

- **Fast Forward:** "We cannot keep pace in the coming decade with the new economic powers of China, Brazil and India if our bridges are crumbling and our rails are rusty. **That is why mayors have sounded the clarion call for critical infrastructure investments.** Because of our advocacy we assembled a bipartisan coalition in support of **America Fast Forward**. And this coalition successfully pushed to have this innovative program included as a key piece of the Surface Transportation Bill. Now it is up to Congress. If they don't act by June 26th, it will be 1,000 days since we have had a transportation bill!"
- **Education:** "While states are slashing education budgets, **cities are blazing new trails in education reform and finding innovative ways to ensure that our children are prepared for the jobs of the future;**" "Good schools plant the seeds of success. They provide our children with skills they need to advance in

today's highly competitive, knowledge-based economy. They are crucibles of citizenship"

- **Congressional Action: "Washington Needs a Wakeup Call!"** President Villaraigosa calls upon Congress needs to act on key legislation, such as the Surface Transportation bill and the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, and refrain from cutting time-tested, effective urban programs, such as the Community Development Block Grants.
- **Cities: Generators of Innovative Thinking:** "When it comes to finding imaginative solutions to our most pressing problems, it's our mayors who are doing the heavy lifting! **Cities are where innovative strategies are being created and tested.** Our cities and metro regions are the global hubs of innovation."
- **Mayors in the Vanguard of Environmental Strategies:** "In the absence of effective international environmental stewardship, cities are taking a more and more prominent lead in working together to mitigate and adapt to global climate change,"
- **Congress Should Focus on Nation-building in America with Cost Savings from Our Troops Returning from Iraq and Afghanistan:** Now Congress should invest those war savings in rebuilding our infrastructure and paying down our national debt! **"We've built bridges in Kandahar. It's time to build them in Kansas City! We've built roads in Baghdad. It's time to build them in Baltimore!"**
- **U.S. Conference of Mayors:** "The U.S. Conference of Mayors will remain the voice of intellectual and moral authority when it comes to the nation's cities and metro regions."

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors recognizes President Antonio Villaraigosa for his comprehensive vision for cities and metro regions of this great country; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the nation's mayors thank President Antonio Villaraigosa for his strong efforts to improve academic performance in schools, decrease gang violence, protect and improve America's infrastructure, create jobs and put people back to work, encourage cities to think local and act global, and emphasize the great contributions of mayors and their cities to innovation and to pushing the national agenda; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the mayors, their families and staff, USCM staff, and all others at this 80th Annual Meeting in Orlando express sincere appreciation to Mayor Villaraigosa for creative and effective leadership and offer warmest wishes to him for all the best that life can offer, now and in the future!

**SPECIAL RESOLUTION IN HONOR OF BUDDY DYER MAYOR OF
ORLANDO HOST OF THE UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF MAYORS
80TH ANNUAL MEETING**

WHEREAS, Mayor Buddy Dyer has hosted the 80th Annual Conference of Mayors June 13-16, 2012, in the vibrant City of Orlando; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Dyer has made sure that all participants fully enjoyed and experienced “The City Beautiful,” as Orlando is known,

WHEREAS, Mayor Dyer and his outstanding staff, citizen volunteers, and everyone we met welcomed the Conference participants with smiles, warmth, and kindness; and

WHEREAS, the first night took us to the Universal Citywalk, where we partied hearty and then moved on to experience the Wizarding World of Harry Potter; and

WHEREAS, Thursday night found us in the Amway Center, enjoying appetizers and drinks while gazing at Orlando’s skyline, playing at Stuff’s Magic Castle, and relaxing on the Gentleman Jack Terrace, all followed by Lake Eola Park’s spectacular synchronized water, light, and sound show;

WHEREAS, on Friday night, we explored SeaWorld, with its new Turtle Trek attraction, and then soared into the skies aboard Manta, SeaWorld’s manta-inspired flying coaster; all followed by our wonderful party honoring outgoing USCM President Mayor Antonio R. Villaraigosa, and Incoming President Michael A. Nutter, Mayor of Philadelphia at Orlando’s “Coliseum of Rock”; and

WHEREAS, tonight we will be treated to an evening at EPCOT, offering a breathtaking viewing of the world-famous IllumiNations: Reflections of Earth – which will be an unforgettable experience,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayors of the United States and all others at the 80th Annual Conference of The U.S. Conference of Mayors warmly thank the great Mayor Buddy Dyer, his entire city government, and the friendly and knowledgeable volunteers, for Orlando’s heart-warming hospitality and our complete enjoyment of this amazing, magical city!

HONORING THE LIFE OF RAY BRADBURY

WHEREAS, Ray Bradbury was born on August 22, 1920 in Waukegan, Illinois; and

WHEREAS, Ray Bradbury is one of the most celebrated authors among 20th and 21st century American writers and is internationally recognized for his countless works of literature in the genre of fantasy, horror, science fiction and mystery; and

WHEREAS, Ray Bradbury is best known for his novels Fahrenheit 451, The Martian Chronicles, The Illustrated Man, Something Wicked this Way Comes, and Dandelion Wine; and

WHEREAS, Ray Bradbury was the recipient of the national Medal of Arts; and

WHEREAS, Ray Bradbury has received an Emmy Award; and

WHEREAS, Ray Bradbury has received the French Ordre des Arts et des Lettres medal; and

WHEREAS, Ray Bradbury was given a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame

WHEREAS, Ray Bradbury has helped design the Spaceship Earth attraction at Disney's Epcot Center; and

WHEREAS, Ray Bradbury has an asteroid named in his honor, "9766 Bradbury" and a crater on the moon called "Dandelion Crater;" and

WHEREAS, Ray Bradbury has received countless other awards and accolades because of his expansive body of work in the fields of literature, television and film; and

WHEREAS, Waukegan plays a pivotal role in many of his literary works as a community known as Green Town; and

WHEREAS, Ray Bradbury has a star on Waukegan's Walk of Stars Park

WHEREAS, Ray Bradbury Park in Waukegan is dedicated in his honor; and

WHEREAS, the Bradbury Room in the Waukegan Public Library is a tribute to him and to his love of books; and

WHEREAS, Waukegan Park District's Annual Dandelion Wine Fine Arts Festival and the Waukegan Public Library's Annual Ray Bradbury Storytelling Festival are tributes to Ray Bradbury's vital impact on our community and to his long-lasting legacy; and

WHEREAS, it was our community, on the shores of Lake Michigan in 1932, that carnival entertainer Mr. Electrico inspired Ray Bradbury to "Live forever!"; and

WHEREAS, Ray Bradbury seems to have figured out exactly how to do so; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors acknowledges Ray Bradbury's status as one of the world's most influential authors and that this nation as well as the entire world shall honor Ray by continuing to read his many literary works, thereby ensuring that he will live forever in the minds of those that do.