



NEWS

The United States Conference of Mayors

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MENINO CRITICIZES ADMINISTRATION TAX PLAN, URGES FOCUS ON JOB CREATION AND INVESTMENT

Washington, DC – Boston Mayor Thomas Menino, President of the U.S. Conference of Mayors, today criticized President Bush's tax proposal as "a massive tax giveaway that provides no stimulus and no help for our states, cities and towns."

Menino said mayors "will keep working to get Washington to recognize that people are hurting in hometown America. We need jobs, we need investment, we need first responder money and we need an aid package for the states. That's our national agenda."

Menino said he has initiated a dialogue with Kentucky Governor Paul Patton, Chairman of the National Governors Association, to jointly promote shared economic priorities that will assist states and cities.

"The mayors of America are ready to go to Washington to lobby for immediate federal assistance for our distressed state governments. We must work together to forestall the mounting state deficits which amount to a \$65-80 billion drag on our national economy," Menino said in remarks to the Massachusetts Municipal Association today.

Mayor Menino said he believes direct investment in local infrastructure is an essential step to stimulate the economy and create jobs. Cities also continue to await any significant federal assistance for homeland security and first responders. A U.S. Conference of Mayors survey found that cities across the country expected to spend more than \$2.6 billion on additional homeland security measures by the end of 2002.

A group of mayors and governors will meet next week in Washington to discuss how best to spur job growth and investment. Then, nearly 300 mayors will meet in Washington January 22-24. At that meeting, mayors will release their own economic stimulus plan.

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The U.S. Conference of Mayors is the official nonpartisan organization of the nation's 1183 cities with populations of 30,000 or more. The primary roles of the Conference are to promote the development of effective national urban/suburban policy; strengthen federal-city relationships; ensure that federal policy meets urban needs; provide mayors with leadership and management tools; and create a forum in which mayors can share ideas and information. More information is available at www.usmayors.org.