



The United States Conference of Mayors

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STATEMENT OF BOSTON MAYOR THOMAS MENINO, PRESIDENT, U.S. CONFERENCE OF MAYORS, ON EFFORTS TO STIMULATE THE ECONOMY

January 7, 2003

“Washington is finally responding to our nation’s need for an economic jump start, but there is still much work to do to get the plan right.

“Cities are the frontlines of America from economic security to homeland security. Therefore, any stimulus plan must focus investment on our cities. While we appreciate the desire to assist struggling state governments, we must emphasize the struggle that cities have faced since September 11 to fund homeland security and fight traditional crime. As the President and Congress begin the year, we again emphasize the urgent need for direct funding to our cities for homeland security.

“We also believe that investment in infrastructure should be done quickly and through local governments. We support job-producing tax incentives, such as the President’s homeownership tax credit, brownfields clean-up credits, and temporary elimination of the tax-exempt bond cap. And, as the level of government closest to the people, we are best suited to implement job search and job training programs to put America back to work.

“America’s mayors are ready to work with the President and Congress to do the job right. Our cities can be the economic engines that right our nation’s course, helping our nation’s families that need jobs, our struggling state and local governments that need revenues and assistance with homeland security, and our businesses that need investment. By focusing on cities, as well as businesses and individuals, America can have a meaningful stimulus plan.”

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