



The United States Conference of Mayors

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Thursday, May 7, 2009

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THE U.S. CONFERENCE OF MAYORS REACTS TO THE ADMINISTRATION'S FY 2010 BUDGET

Concerns over Exclusion of Energy Efficiency Program

Washington, D.C. – The nation's mayors are encouraged by the Administration's Fiscal Year 2010 budget, and are pleased to see investments in the areas of community development and housing, education, community oriented policing and high speed intercity passenger rail – key priorities for the U.S. Conference of Mayors. Mayors across America are pleased to see that the Obama Administration recognizes the importance of the nation's cities and that its policies reflect those priorities.

"Increasingly, Americans are living in our nation's cities and metropolitan areas, which account for 83 percent of the country's population. In addition, cities and metropolitan areas comprise 90% of the gross domestic product and drive the national economy. This budget largely recognizes that the nation's future prosperity is very much dependent on the health of our metro-areas," said Conference of Mayors President Miami Mayor Manny Diaz.

"Mayors are concerned, however, that the President's Budget does not include funding for the authorized Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant – conceived by The U.S. Conference of Mayors and the top priority in the mayors' Ten Point Plan. Mayors were pleased that the Economic Recovery Bill contained a down-payment of \$2.8 billion for this program, but strongly believe that continued funding in FY 2010 must be provided to cities to meet the goals of the Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement, which commits cities to meet Kyoto Protocol Standards by 2012. Nearly 950 mayors have signed the agreement and are currently working to make their cities energy efficient," Diaz continued.

"We will be working with the President and Congress to expand this program beyond the Stimulus bill so that we can sustain over the long-term the work that many communities have already begun. Mayors want to create energy efficient cities, but more importantly, mayors want to support President Obama in engaging the rest of the world to save our planet," said Conference CEO and Executive Director Tom Cochran.

The nation's mayors have invited President Obama, Vice President Biden and several members of the Obama Cabinet to address the Conference's Annual Meeting from June 12-15 in Providence, RI, where mayors will gather to discuss implementation of the Economic Recovery Plan and share plans for a new urban agenda in America.

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