



The United States Conference of Mayors

1620 Eye Street, N.W. • Washington, D.C. 20006
Phone (202) 293-7330 • Fax (202) 293-2352
E-mail: info@usmayors.org URL: usmayors.org

For Immediate Release
February 25, 2010

Contact: Elena Temple (etemple@usmayors.org)
(202) 309-4906
Carlos Vogel (cvogel@usmayors.org)
(202) 257-9797

THE NATION'S MAYORS COMMEND SENATE APPROVAL OF THE U.S. TRAVEL PROMOTION ACT : BILL NOW GOES TO PRESIDENT

Washington, D.C. – The United States Conference of Mayors applauds the US Senate for passage of the Travel Promotion Act of 2009. The US House of Representatives passed the legislation in October, 2009. The bill now goes to the President for his signature who has expressed support for the program.

The Conference of Mayors passed its first resolution in support of the Travel Promotion Act at its 74th Annual Conference in 2006 and has repeatedly done such every year since. Passage of the Travel Promotion Act was one of the Conference of Mayors' priorities contained in its 2010 Metro Agenda for America.

"We applaud the Senate action today which will create thousands of new jobs in America," stated Conference of Mayors President Burnsville Mayor Elizabeth Kautz. "Americans need jobs now and this bill will help to get our national and local economies moving again."

"The mayors made the Travel Promotion Act part of our 10-Point Action Plan and our 2010 Metro Agenda for America, and worked very hard to secure its passage on Capitol Hill," said Honolulu Mayor Mufi Hannemann, Chairman of the Conference's Standing Committee on Tourism, Arts, Parks, Entertainment and Sports. "The Senate's approval is wonderful news for our nation, and especially for cities where tourism is a major economic pillar."

"Since 9/11, mayors have recognized the importance of travel and tourism to their communities," said Conference of Mayors CEO and Executive Director Tom Cochran and former board member of the Travel Business Roundtable. "We've lost jobs and businesses in our cities as result of losing our share of the international visitors. This bill will set us on the right course."

The Travel Promotion Act will create a public-private partnership to promote the United States as a premier international travel destination and communicate US security and entry policies. The travel promotion will be paid for by private sector contributions and a \$10 fee on foreign travelers. The US Travel Association, of which the US Conference of Mayors is a member, estimates that the bill would attract 1.6 million new international visitors, create over 40,000 new jobs in its first year, and would generate \$4 billion in new economic activity and contribute over \$321 million in new federal tax revenue each year.

###

The U.S. Conference of Mayors is the official nonpartisan organization of the nation's 1139 U.S. cities with populations of 30,000 or more.