



# **The United States Conference of Mayors**

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## **STATEMENT OF U.S. CONFERENCE OF MAYORS PRESIDENT BURNSVILLE, MN MAYOR ELIZABETH KAUTZ ON PRESIDENT OBAMA'S FY'S 2011 BUDGET**

### ***While Key City Priorities Affirmed, No Energy Block Grant is Missed Opportunity***

Washington, D.C. – On behalf of the nation's mayors, The U.S. Conference of Mayors President Burnsville, MN Mayor Elizabeth Kautz released the following statement in response to President Obama's FY 2011 Budget:

"The nation's mayors are pleased that the President's budget proposes significant boosts to programs that impact MainStreet America because investment in cities and metropolitan areas makes for a strong national economy. Specifically, we welcome the doubling of COPS hiring grants, direct and flexible transportation grants, increased homelessness assistance, and summer youth jobs funding and level funding for Community Development Block Grants.

"And while the Administration has made new green industries and other energy investments a priority for job creation, we are disappointed that the Department of Energy's budget does not fund green job and clean energy block grants to help accelerate the momentum of green actions by cities all across the country.

"Through targeted energy block grant funding [i.e., EECBG] included in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, mayors throughout the country are creating green jobs with these Department of Energy funds as a response to the double-digit unemployment many cities are experiencing.

"And mayors have been leading the way both in this country and internationally in the green revolution with more than 1,000 U.S. cities committed to climate protection by reducing carbon pollution and greening their economies.

“Without continued funding in the 2011 Budget, mayors will be further constrained as they work to build upon the success of EECBG funds they received last year -- resources that are so essential for green job growth.

“Speaker Pelosi and many others in Congress support the mayors’ Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program as an established method for creating green jobs in our cities and metro areas where jobs are needed most.

“The nation’s mayors will come to Washington, D.C. on February 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> to work with lawmakers to ensure this program is funded now and over the long-term.

“As the debate on budget priorities unfolds, we call upon the Obama Administration to further engage with America’s mayors to help working families and build stronger communities where people can thrive.”

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The U.S. Conference of Mayors is the official nonpartisan organization of cities with populations of 30,000 or more. There are 1,139 such cities in the country today. Each city is represented in the Conference by its chief elected official, the mayor. More information about the Conference is available at [usmayors.org](http://usmayors.org).