THE UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF MAYORS

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TOM COCHRAN

May 20, 2008

The Honorable Barbara Boxer
Chairman, Environment and Public Works Committee
United States Senate
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Boxer:

On behalf of The United States Conference of Mayors, I want to thank you for your strong leadership on the issue of global climate protection and to convey the Conference of Mayors' strong support for your substitute amendment to the Lieberman-Warner Climate Security Act (S. 2191). We support passage of your proposed legislation, which, if enacted, will move the country toward making systematic reductions nationwide in U.S. greenhouse gas emissions.

Through our work over the years, the nation's mayors have demonstrated their strong commitment to improving the environment, with recent efforts focused on climate protection. To date, more than 850 Mayors have signed the Conference of Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement, a shared demonstration of their commitment to this critical challenge before the nation and the planet, with each mayor pledging to reduce their city's greenhouse gas emissions by 7 percent below 1990 levels by 2012.

To further underscore this commitment, the Conference's top legislative priority is the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) program. This new initiative, which we believe will be transformative, especially as we seek to galvanize public support for the many individual and collective actions at the community level, will be needed to significantly reduce the nation's carbon emissions. Through the sustained and growing funding commitment, which your legislation provides, mayors as well as other local leaders will be further enabled to deliver systematic emission reductions through broader commitments to energy efficiency and renewable energy development in their communities.

This is a critical time for our nation as we continue to seek solutions for our energy crisis and to mitigate the impact of climate change. The United States needs to move towards a comprehensive solution to reduce our greenhouse gas impact and we see your manager's amendment as a much needed step in that direction. The Conference of Mayors strongly encourages the Senate to pass this critical piece of legislation.

Again, thank you for leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,

tom cochran

Tom Cochran
Executive Director and CEO