



# THE UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF MAYORS

1620 EYE STREET, NORTHWEST  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006  
TELEPHONE (202) 293-7330  
FAX (202) 293-2352  
URL: [www.usmayors.org](http://www.usmayors.org)

January 25, 2008

The Honorable John Spratt, Jr.  
Chairman, Budget Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Paul D. Ryan  
Ranking Member, Budget Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member:

On behalf of The U.S. Conference of Mayors, we are asking for your consideration as you prepare the budget to include in your budget assumptions a \$2 billion appropriation amount for the newly authorized Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant.

The Block Grant, which was included in the "Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007," is the Conference of Mayors' top priority. The block grant would provide direct funding to cities, counties and states to implement energy conservation and efficiency strategies in communities throughout the nation.

This is a critical time for the United States, as our energy inefficiency and foreign dependence increasingly threaten our economic security. We believe that the block grant is a vital tool to help move America towards energy independence while improving the environment.

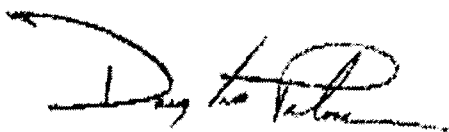
To date, nearly 800 Mayors have pledged their commitment to reduce their city's greenhouse gas emissions by 7 percent from 1990 levels and have implemented innovative local energy efficiency and conservation programs to help them meet these goals. Programs in the areas of energy-efficient buildings, lighting, alternative energy sources, alternative fueled-fleets, and transit-oriented development are just a few of the creative approaches that are being launched throughout the country.

However, while local governments are leading the way, as "first responders" to our climate change and energy crisis, we cannot do it alone. The Block Grant would dramatically accelerate and expand local and state energy efficiency programs. It would assist cities, counties, and states with their continued efforts to retrofit public and private buildings to make them more energy efficient, to increase the usage of alternative energy sources, utilize alternative fuels, and other energy efficiency strategies.

The U.S. Conference of Mayors strongly encourages you to include in your budget assumption the \$2 billion needed for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant.

If you have any questions, please contact Judy Sheahan or Debra DeHaney-Howard of the Conference staff at 202-293-7330. Thank you for your consideration.

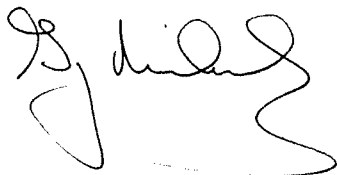
Sincerely,



Douglas H. Palmer  
President  
Mayor of Trenton



Manuel A. Diaz  
Vice President  
Mayor of Miami



Greg Nickels  
Chair, Advisory Board  
Mayor of Seattle



Tom Cochran  
Executive Director

cc: The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Members of the House Budget Committee



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January 25, 2008

The Honorable Kent Conrad  
Chairman, Budget Committee  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Judd Gregg  
Ranking Member, Budget Committee  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

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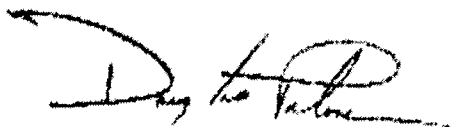
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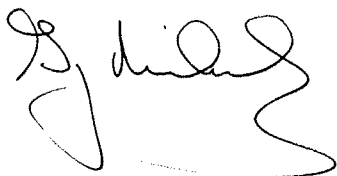
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Tom Cochran  
Executive Director

cc: The Honorable Harry Reid  
Members of the Senate Budget Committee