February 24, 2006

The Honorable Bill Frist
Majority Leader
United States Senate

The Honorable Harry Reid
Democratic Leader
United States Senate

The Honorable J. Dennis Hastert
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Democratic Leader
U.S. House of Representatives

Dear Senators Frist and Reid:
Dear Representatives Hastert and Pelosi:

On behalf of leaders of The United States Conference of Mayors, gathered during our 2006 Winter Leadership Meeting, we urge suspension of the proposed business transaction to allow Dubai Ports World, headquartered in the United Arab Emirates, to run significant operations at ports in New York, New Jersey, Baltimore, Philadelphia, New Orleans and Miami. We ask that Congress then require the Administration, through the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS), to commence an immediate 45-day investigation on the takeover’s effects on national security.

By taking these actions, the Administration will have greater opportunity to inform mayors, Congress and the American public regarding the many complicated issues surrounding this matter.

Since September 11, 2001, our organization has focused tremendous effort on the issue of port security. During our leadership meeting, we heard from several Administration officials regarding steps that have been taken to improve port security. But we continue to hear serious security concerns regarding this transaction and on port security in general from our mayoral members, and we urge suspension of the transaction until the security of America’s ports can be assured.

Thank you for your continued attention to the needs of America’s mayors, our cities, and the security of the nation. If you have any questions, please contact our Executive Director Tom Cochran or Assistant Executive Director Ron Thaniel at (202) 293-7330.

Sincerely,

[Signatures]
Mayor of Long Beach
President

Mayor of Trenton
Advisory Board Chair

Mayor of Baltimore
Co-Chair, Homeland Security Task Force

Mayor of Sugar Land
Co-Chair, Homeland Security Task Force
Mayors

Maysia E. Abernathy
Mayor of Virginia Beach, VA

Manuel Diaz
Mayor of Miami, FL

Carlos Gimenez
Mayor of Miami, FL

Michael D. Hancock
Mayor of Indianapolis, IN

Michele L. miracle
Mayor of Nashville, TN

Michael Hancock
Mayor of Indianapolis, IN

Michael W. Hancock
Mayor of Little Rock, AR

Mervin E. Leslie
Mayor of Fort Smith, AR

Mayors

Elizabeth McCauley
Mayor of Elizabethtown, KY

John B. Beliveau
Mayor of Elizabeth, NJ