OVER 250 U.S. MAYORS WILL GATHER IN THE NATION’S CAPITAL TO DISCUSS THE CONDITION OF MAINSTREET AMERICA: THE ECONOMY, UNEMPLOYMENT, GREEN JOBS & TRANSPORTATION

78th Winter Meeting of the United States Conference of Mayors

Washington, D.C. – More than 250 of the nation’s mayors, led by U.S. Conference of Mayors President Burnsville, MN, Mayor Elizabeth Kautz, will convene for the 78th Winter Meeting of The U.S. Conference of Mayors on Wednesday, January 20-Friday, January 22, at the Capital Hilton Hotel in Washington, D.C.

The nation’s mayors will meet with the Obama Administration and Congress to advocate for a national bipartisan political agenda that confronts the unemployment that still exists on main street America, the need for a federal/city partnership on climate protection and energy with block grants to cities producing green jobs, and a more balanced transportation bill next year that recognizes the necessity to modernize the current transportation system in order to daily move goods, services and people in our metro areas of this nation.

Highlighting the three-day session will be the release of a report on Wednesday, June 20th that forecasts the pace of the economic recovery and job growth in the nation’s 363 individual metropolitan economies, where 85% of the people in this country live. The report will include projections of when each metro will reach their pre-recession job levels. Mayors will also visit the White House to meet with President Obama and his Economic Advisory Team on Thursday, January 21; and First Lady Michelle Obama will address the mayors on Wednesday afternoon, January 20 (Please contact FirstLadyPress@who.eop.gov for access; the deadline for credentials for the First Lady is TOMORROW -- Tuesday, January 19th at 10am EST.)

Confirmed Speakers for the Meeting Include: House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Energy Secretary Steven Chu, Housing and Urban Development Secretary Shaun Donovan, Education Secretary Arne Duncan, Attorney General Eric Holder, Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Lisa Jackson, Transportation Secretary LaHood, Drug Czar Gil Kerlikowske, U.S. Trade Representative Ron Kirk, Labor Secretary Hilda Solis, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack, AK Senator Mark Begich, WA Senator Patty Murray, FL Congressman Debbie Wasserman Schultz, White House Urban Affairs Director Aldofo Carrion, Oregon Governor Ted Kulongoski, Hiroshima, Japan Mayor Tadatoshia Akiba, Florence, Italy Mayor Matteo Renzi, Mexico City Mayor Marcelo Ebrard, National Urban League President and CEO Marc Morial, NEA Chairman Rocco Landesman, Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. and more.

As the new President of The Conference of Mayors, Mayor Kautz is serving the balance of former Seattle Mayor Greg Nickel’s term, which would have ended in June 2010, and then serve a full term of her own until June 2011. (Greg Nickels was defeated in the most recent mayoral election and his term ended on January 2.) Mayor Kautz was previously the Vice President of The Conference and under the rules of the organization’s Constitution, when the current President is no longer a mayor, the Vice President automatically becomes President.

Mayor Kautz was first elected Burnsville’s Mayor in 1994 and has been re-elected five times since. Mayor Kautz is the fifth woman President in the history of The U.S. Conference of Mayors, and due to her succession last week, Mayor Kautz will be the longest serving woman President in the organization's 78-year history.

All press MUST register to attend the meeting. For online registration and the list of pre-registered Mayors, please go to www.usmayors.org where a MEETING AGENDA and list of ATTENDING MAYORS is posted. On-site registration will also be available with the proper press credentials at the Capital Hilton - 2nd Floor in the Pan American Room.
WHO: Burnsville, MN Mayor Elizabeth Kautz, President, USCM
Los Angeles, CA Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, Vice President, USCM
Tom Cochran, CEO and Executive Director, USCM
Over 250 of the Nation’s Mayors

WHAT: Opening Press Conference and Release of the MainStreet Jobs Forecasting Report

WHEN: Wednesday, January 20, 2010 at 11:45 a.m.

WHERE: Capitol Hilton Hotel – 2nd Floor FOYER AREA outside South American Room
1001 16th Street NW -- Washington, D.C. 20036