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U.S. CONFERENCE OF MAYORS FIGHT SEQUESTRATION CUTS

Washington, D.C. – The nation’s mayors today gathered at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C., to voice their opposition to sequestration cuts and to release a bi-partisan letter calling on leaders in Washington to balance the federal budget in a way that will protect cities. See quotes below from participating mayors:

“We cannot afford more cuts that will hurt vulnerable populations and hold back progress. A federal budget plan that is pro-city is a budget plan that is pro-growth.”

- Mayor Michael Nutter, USCM President
  Philadelphia, PA

“For the fiscal health of our country, we as a bipartisan coalition of mayors urge Washington to take a balanced approach to deficit reduction to avoid sequestration and its resulting cuts. Cities and metro economies are the heartbeat of this country and risking cuts to vital local services and dramatic job losses will only weaken our national economy. Now is the time to put aside partisan politics and do what’s best for our country’s future. We must increase, not decrease, our investment in infrastructure, education, and public safety in order to position ourselves to be competitive in the global economy.”

- Mayor Kevin Johnson, USCM Second Vice-President
  Sacramento, CA

“I urge Congress to act responsibly as they consider these proposed cuts. If enacted, these measures would have a devastating impact on Atlanta’s local economy and could jeopardize vital public safety initiatives. Our citizens deserve better from their federal government.”

- Mayor Kasim Reed, USCM Transportation Committee Chair
  Atlanta, GA
Quotes:

“As Mayors, we know that our public expects us to address important matters within our responsibility. Congress should act to avoid the “fiscal cliff” and keep our economic recovery going. We’ve all taken balanced approaches to fiscal challenges. Congress needs to come together around solutions that sensibly consider effects on our communities and shared residents. We will continue to offer solutions.”

- Mayor Ralph Becker, USCM Community Development & Housing Vice Chair
  Salt Lake City, UT

“It is the wrong time to send a negative jolt to the economy and long past time for Congress to get its work done.”

- Mayor R. T. Rybak, USCM Metro Ports and Exports Task Force Vice-Chair
  Minneapolis, MN

“Fort Jackson, Shaw Air Force Base and McEntire Joint National Guard Base combine for a $7.1 billion economic impact in the City of Columbia and throughout the Midlands Region of South Carolina. They are key engines driving our city’s economic recovery and Sequestration threatens to stop our city and every metro economy in our tracks.

We are facing a crisis and we need Congress regardless of party affiliation to put our nation first and politics second.”

- Mayor Stephen Benjamin, USCM Trustee
  Columbia, SC

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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 1,295 such cities in the country today, and each city is represented in the Conference by its chief elected official, the mayor. Like us on Facebook at [facebook.com/usmayors](http://facebook.com/usmayors), or follow us on Twitter at [twitter.com/usmayors](http://twitter.com/usmayors).