FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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The U.S. Conference of Mayors Commends Congressional Farm Bill Agreement

Washington, D.C. – Today, U.S. Conference of Mayors CEO and Executive Director Tom Cochran released the following statement, in reaction to the passage of the Federal Agriculture Reform and Risk Management Act of 2013, widely know as the Farm Bill:

“We commend Congress for reaching a bipartisan agreement to advance the Farm Bill. When compared to previous versions of this vital legislation, we acknowledge the moderation that both the House and Senate exercised in applying cuts to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

However, we remain deeply concerned that these cuts will have a profound impact on the most needy and vulnerable families in our cities and towns. Given that research by the U.S. Department of Agriculture shows that each $5 of federal SNAP benefits generates nearly twice that amount in economic activity, we must ensure that these cuts do not jeopardize our economic recovery, locally and nationwide.

We pledge to work with members of Congress on both sides of the aisle, as well as the Administration, to ensure that we reinforce the critical safety net that SNAP provides, to develop creative strategies to fuel our continued economic recovery, and to cultivate equitable economic opportunity through the development of local and regional food systems.”

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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, or follow us on Twitter at twitter.com/usmayors.