



# The United States Conference of Mayors

1620 Eye Street, N.W. • Washington, D.C. 20006  
Phone (202) 293-7330 • Fax (202) 293-2352  
E-mail: [info@usmayors.org](mailto:info@usmayors.org) URL: [usmayors.org](http://usmayors.org)

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Contact: Elena Temple  
[202-861-6719/etemple@usmayors.org](mailto:202-861-6719/etemple@usmayors.org)  
Carlos Vogel  
[202-257-9797cvogel@usmayors.org](mailto:202-257-9797cvogel@usmayors.org)

## THE NATION'S MAYORS COMMEND SENATE PASSAGE OF THE U.S. TRAVEL PROMOTION ACT

Washington, D.C. – The United States Conference of Mayors applauds the Senate passage of the Travel Promotion Act.

The Conference of Mayors passed its first resolution in support of the federal government establishing an international marketing program at its 74<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference in 2006.

“We applaud the Senate’s action today and urge the House of Representatives to follow suit,” stated Conference of Mayors President Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels. “We know that attracting more international visitors will create jobs and benefit many of our local economies.”

“Since 9/11, mayors have recognized the importance of travel and tourism to their communities,” said Conference of Mayors CEO and Executive Director Tom Cochran and former board member of the Travel Business Roundtable. “We’ve lost jobs and businesses in our cities as result of losing our share of the international visitors. The nation’s mayors thank the Senate for its action today and now it is time for the House to act.”

“We are very pleased that this important legislation is moving forward to boost the visitor industry and help improve our nation’s economy,” said Honolulu Mayor Mufi Hannemann, Chairman of the Conference’s Standing Committee on Tourism, Arts, Parks, Entertainment and Sports. “The U.S. Conference of Mayors has made this measure a priority and I am very pleased that the Senate has now approved this long-awaited and much-needed legislation.”

The Travel Promotion Act will create a public-private partnership to promote the United States as a premier international travel destination and communicate US security and entry policies. The travel promotion will be paid for by private sector contributions and a \$10 fee on foreign travelers. The US Travel Association, of which the US Conference of Mayors is a member, estimates that the bill would attract 1.6 million new international visitors, create nearly 40,000 new jobs in its first year, and would generate \$4 billion in new economic activity and contribute over \$320 million in new federal tax revenue each year.

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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 1,139 such cities in the country today, each represented in the Conference by its chief elected official, the Mayor.*