THE NATION’S MAYORS REACT TO PRESIDENT OBAMA’S STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS

Statement From The U.S. Conference of Mayors President
Burnsville, MN Mayor Elizabeth Kautz

Washington, D.C. – “The nation’s mayors are pleased that President Obama spoke about unity and bipartisanship as we move forward to solve the challenges facing America and address this country’s deteriorating infrastructure.

“For years, The U.S. Conference of Mayors has pushed infrastructure modernization as a means of job creation and economic development. A multi-modal transportation system is critical to effectively moving the nation’s goods and services and people -- 85% of whom live, work and travel in metropolitan areas -- through the nation’s cities both large and small.

“Last week, the mayors of the nation gathered in Washington, D.C. for the Conference of Mayors’ Winter Meeting, where mayors met with President Obama and again shared the need to focus on jobs. The unemployment rate in our nation’s cities continues to be our first priority as statistics show that one-third of the nation’s 363 metro areas will still have an unemployment rate higher than 10 percent at the end of 2011.

“We know that the nation’s recovery will be driven by the economic engines of the metropolitan areas, and without job growth in the metropolitan areas, there can be no sustained national recovery.

“Mayors are pragmatic – we work for the good of all people we serve. As a national nonpartisan organization that represents mayors who get things done everyday in their own cities, we stand ready to work with the President and the Congress to bring Washington together to get things done on the national level. We also are working with business leaders to forge a national consensus in support of job creation and infrastructure investment.”