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Contact: Elena Temple
202-309-4906/etemple@usmayors.org
Carlos Vogel
202-257-9797/cvogel@usmayors.org

STATEMENT OF THE UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF MAYORS
CEO AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TOM COCHRAN
ON THE “AMERICAN POWER ACT” RELEASED TODAY BY
SENATORS JOHN KERRY AND JOE LIEBERMAN

Washington, D.C. – “Last year the nation’s mayors were most encouraged with the partnership we had
with the United States Senate, when the 2009 energy and climate bill included Energy Efficiency and
Conservation Block Grants. Mayors stood with Senate leaders on the Capitol lawn where Senator after
Senator praised the work of the nation’s mayors on climate protection.

“We are frustrated and perplexed that the legislation announced today does not include Energy Efficiency
and Conservation Block Grants for cities and local governments.

“Today, within the Mayors Climate Protection Center of The United States Conference of Mayors, we
have 1,036 mayors and cities looking for a partnership with the Federal Government on greenhouse gas
reduction and greater energy independence.

“The mayors of this nation are recognized around the globe for their outstanding work on this issue,
throughout Europe with the European Union and EuroCities and at the COP-15 in Copenhagen. In Asia,
with our continuing partnership with the Japanese Association of City Mayors and, recently, at the Sixth
Sino-American Summit in Chengdu with the mayors of China, we continue to share our best practices
and common goals.

“The fact is that the cities of America are leading the nation on this issue while many states and some in
Washington fail to recognize the contribution that we continue to make.

“We speak out today because we still seek a partnership with the Federal Government. Science tells us
that the threat to our globe is caused by the actions of human beings. The mayors of the United States
are number one at changing human behavior. Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants are tools
that we need to forge the public/private initiatives as well as enlisting and involving the 85 percent
of the American people who live in cities and their metro areas.

“We believe there are many Senators who have not reversed their sentiment toward mayoral and city
involvement. As mentioned last year, we were heralded for the progress of mayors and cities. Our
activities have not decreased or subsided over the past year and we have enlisted many more cities
within the United States Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Center.

“This issue is a top priority of The United States Conference of Mayors. We will continue to use our
glass-roots efforts to include within the current legislation the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block
Grants that are so important to our national efforts.

“The bill today has a goal of reducing carbon pollution by 17 percent by 2020 and by 80 percent by 2050.
Today we stand and speak out to say that the nation cannot meet these goals unless mayors, cities, and
their metro regions are totally involved in this national effort.

“In Washington, as with all major legislation, this is a work in progress. And, we look forward to engaging
with Senate Leaders to correct this situation and affirm the crucial role of mayors and other local officials
in this effort.”