



National League of Cities



May 8, 2009

The Honorable Henry A. Waxman
United States Representative
2204 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Joe Barton
United States Representative
2109 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Waxman and Ranking Member Barton:

On behalf of the nation's mayors and city and county officials, we are writing to express our deep concern that the American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009 has included virtually no mechanisms to assist local governments in our efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Local governments have been working for years on the issue of climate change. Since 2005, more than 940 mayors, numerous city and county officials have pledged to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and shrink their carbon footprint. In fact, local governments were leading the way when the federal government and most of the states were silent on this issue. Local governments have implemented energy efficiency projects in municipal, residential, and commercial buildings, retrofitted fleets, invested in renewable energy technology, and raised their citizens' awareness about the need for individual and community-wide efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

As this legislation moves forward, we urge you to dedicate a portion of the anticipated revenues to support the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) program, a delivery mechanism that was designed to support local and state government efforts to increase energy efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Supporting this program with a dedicated funding source will enable cities, counties, and states to continue and expand their efforts to conserve energy, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and protect the environment by implementing increased energy efficiency and renewable energy development programs in our communities.

We appreciate and support your efforts to assist local governments with climate change adaptation. Any successful national climate protection strategy must also include implementation of local government energy efficiency and conservation strategies, for which the EECBG provides the foundation. We remain firm in our position that strong conservation efforts must be encouraged by such programs, as they represent the most cost-effective and immediate form of greenhouse gas reductions.

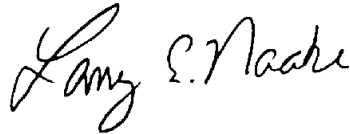
Finally, renewable energy sources can provide a number of benefits to the community, including a reliable clean source of power while reducing dependence on imported fossil fuels, conserving valuable landfill space and preserving our natural resources. As the committee makes its final determination on the definition of "renewable energy resource," we encourage you to include other renewable technologies such as waste-to-energy and other new or emerging technologies that would help local governments achieve the federal renewable electricity standard.

We appreciate your leadership with the American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009 and look forward to working with you to create a true partnership with the federal, state and local governments to confront the threat of climate change on our nation and our communities. We are hopeful that this historic climate change legislation will acknowledge the important role local governments can and do play in a national climate protection strategy, particularly in the arena of energy efficiency and energy conservation. We would be pleased to answer any questions your staff may have.

Sincerely,



Donald Borut
Executive Director
National League of Cities



Larry Naake
Executive Director
National Association of Counties



Tom Cochran
CEO and Executive Director
The United States Conference
of Mayors

cc: Members of the House Energy and Commerce Committee