



March 28, 2017

President Trump:

As elected leaders of cities of every size across the country, we write to reaffirm our commitment to using the power of local office and local governments to preserve environmental goals that have directly improved the health, safety and welfare of our residents and communities.

Through organizations such as the National League of Cities and partnerships such as the U.S. Mayors' National Climate Action Agenda, our cities are taking bold actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and prepare our communities for future extreme weather events. As the elected officials closest and most directly accountable to residents, we cannot let our communities down by taking a step back on our actions and commitments to address climate change. We urge you and your administration to partner with us to build cities that can withstand, and reverse, the physically and economically destructive effects of climate change.

There is a long history of partnership between local, state and federal government to address climate change, including: the 2003 Climate VISION program, the Climate Ready Water Utilities program established in 2010, the 2013 State, Local, and Tribal Leaders Task Force On Climate Preparedness and Resilience, and more. These programs have helped leverage new sources of capital, grow new manufacturing and technology jobs, and catalyze a boom in the energy and construction industries. Most importantly, these jobs stay in our communities and cannot be shipped overseas.

Local leaders are taking action on climate change because as first responders, local governments are on the front lines of delivering services and protecting citizens. Extreme weather events such as heat waves, droughts, heavy downpours, floods and other storms, which have become more frequent and more severe, have brought renewed attention to the need for cities to anticipate, prepare for and adapt to their impacts. These extreme weather events severely impact local and regional infrastructure, economies, public safety, public health, natural landscapes and environmental quality. As local elected officials entrusted with the stewardship of tax-payer dollars, we know that the cost of prevention pales in comparison to the cost of inaction — in terms of dollars, property and human life. Moreover, we find that improving energy efficiency and investing in renewable energy makes good economic sense for our residents, our businesses and our communities.

Scientists agree that climate change is occurring and is primarily man-made, but it does not simply threaten our environment. Leading economists agree that it threatens our future

prosperity. Farmers agree that it threatens crop production. Doctors agree that it threatens our public health. And military officials agree that it threatens global security. It would be irresponsible to ignore these voices and falter in our commitments to act.

For these reasons, we renew our call on you, your administration and to Congress to expand and accelerate these local initiatives:

- Help cities leverage funds for the hundreds of billions of dollars in transit, energy, infrastructure and real estate development necessary to upgrade our infrastructure for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.
- Expand the renewable energy sources we need to achieve energy security and address climate change.
- Provide American businesses the certainty to invest through continued tax credits for electric vehicles, solar power, renewable and other clean technology.
- Embrace the principles of the Paris climate agreement to limit global temperature change below 2 degrees and make cities your partner in doing so.

While we are prepared to forge ahead even in the absence of federal support, we know that if we stand united on these issues, we can make change that will resonate for generations. We have no choice and no room to doubt our resolve. The time for bold leadership and action is now.

Sincerely,



Matt Zone  
NLC President  
Councilmember, Cleveland, Ohio



Chris Coleman  
NLC Past President  
Mayor, Saint Paul, Minnesota

Councilmember Billy Pearson, City of Lincoln, Alabama  
Councilmember Celia Barotz, City of Flagstaff, Arizona  
Councilmember Eva Putzova, City of Flagstaff, Arizona  
Councilmember Ryan Winkle, City of Mesa, Arizona  
Councilmember Regina Romero, City of Tucson, Arizona  
Councilmember John Williams, City of Surprise, Arizona  
Councilmember Lauren Kuby, City of Tempe, Arizona  
Mayor Lioneld Jordan, City of Fayetteville, Arkansas  
Mayor Kirsten Keith, City of Menlo Park, California  
Mayor Sue Higgins, City of Oakley, California  
Councilmember Kevin McKeown, City of Santa Monica, California  
Councilmember Rishi Kumar, City of Saratoga, California  
Councilmember Matthew Appelbaum, City of Boulder, Colorado  
Councilmember Amy Martinez, City of Englewood, Colorado  
Councilmember Shakti, City of Lakewood, Colorado  
Councilmember Pauline Christensen, City of Longmont, Colorado  
Councilmember Joan Peck, City of Longmont, Colorado

Councilwoman Leah Johnson, City of Loveland, Colorado  
Mayor Pro Temp Gerry Horak, City of Fort Collins, Colorado  
Councilmember Scott Burns, City of Bridgeport, Connecticut  
Former Mayor Cindy Lerner, City of Pinecrest, Florida  
Councilmember James McDonald, City of Pinecrest, Florida  
Councilmember Karl Nurse, City of St. Petersburg, Florida  
Commissioner Julie Fishman, City of Tamarac, Florida  
Mayor Geraldine Muoio, City of West Palm Beach, Florida  
Councilman James Whitmore, City of Fairburn, Georgia  
Mayor Pro Tem Hattie Portis-Jones, City of Fairburn, Georgia  
Councilmember Lydia Glaize, City of Fairburn, Georgia  
Mayor Roy Buol, City of Dubuque, Iowa  
Alderman Joe Moore, City of Chicago, Illinois  
Councilmember Vicki Welch, City of Louisville, Kentucky  
Mayor Patrick Wojahn, City of College Park, Maryland  
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Councilmember Michael Sesma, City of Gaithersburg, Maryland  
Councilmember Ryan Spiegel, City of Gaithersburg, Maryland  
Councilmember Robert Wu, City of Gaithersburg, Maryland  
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Councilmember Peter Kovar, City of Takoma Park, Maryland  
Councilmember Timothy Male, City of Takoma Park, Maryland  
Councilmember Jan Devereux, City of Cambridge, Massachusetts  
Councilmember Pious Ali, City of Portland, Maine  
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Councilmember Patty Acomb, City of Minnetonka, Minnesota  
Councilmember Suzie Nakasian, City of Northfield, Minnesota  
Councilmember Michael Wojcik, City of Rochester, Minnesota  
Councilmember Katheryn Shields, City of Kansas City, Missouri  
Councilmember Patsy Kinsey, City of Charlotte, North Carolina  
Councilmember TJ Cawley, City of Morrisville, North Carolina  
Councilmember Dan Besse, City of Winston-Salem, North Carolina  
Councilmember Phyllis Cleveland, City of Cleveland, Ohio  
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Councilmember Ryan Mello, City of Tacoma, Washington  
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Councilwoman Denise DeMarb, City of Madison, Wisconsin  
Mayor Paul Soglin, City of Madison, Wisconsin