



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 21st 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
Council Vice President Neil Harris, City of Gaithersburg, Maryland
Councilmember Michael Sesma, City of Gaithersburg, Maryland
Councilmember Ryan Spiegel, City of Gaithersburg, Maryland
Councilmember Robert Wu, City of Gaithersburg, Maryland
Mayor Pro Tem Judith Davis, City of Greenbelt, Maryland
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
Mayor Mark Meadows, City of East Lansing, Michigan
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
Councilman Bryan Burgess, City of Oberlin, Ohio
Council President Jane Goodman, City of South Euclid, Ohio
Councilor Mark Fagin, City of Beaverton, Oregon
Mayor Sal Panto, City of Easton, Pennsylvania
Councilman Ernst Brooks, City of Jackson, Tennessee
Councilmember Fabian Bedne, City of Nashville, Tennessee
Councilmember Ellen Smith, City of Oak Ridge, Tennessee
Councilmember Leslie Pool, City of Austin, Texas
Councilmember Tiffinni Young, City of Dallas, Texas
Councilmember Keely Briggs, City of Denton, Texas
Councilmember Ron Nirenberg, City of San Antonio, Texas

Council Chair Helen Riehle, City of South Burlington, Vermont
Councilmember Cassie Franklin, City of Everett, Washington
Councilmember Scott Murphy, City of Everett, Washington
Councilmember Paul Roberts, City of Everett, Washington
Deputy Mayor Cynthia Pratt, City of Lacey, Washington
Councilmember Angela Birney, City of Redmond, Washington
Councilmember Will Hall, City of Shoreline, Washington
Councilmember Lauren Walker Lee, City of Tacoma, Washington
Councilmember Ryan Mello, City of Tacoma, Washington
Mayor Pete Kmet, City of Tumwater, Washington
Councilwoman Denise DeMarb, City of Madison, Wisconsin
Mayor Paul Soglin, City of Madison, Wisconsin