



THE UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF MAYORS

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December 22, 2008

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The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy
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Senate Committee on the Judiciary
SD-224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-6275

The Honorable Arlen Specter
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on the Judiciary
SD-224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-6275

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Dear Chairman Leahy and Ranking Member Specter:

On behalf of The United States Conference of Mayors, I am writing to urge approval and confirmation of Eric Holder as Attorney General.

While serving as Deputy Attorney General in the Clinton Administration, Mr. Holder was actively involved with the nation's mayors and police chiefs in helping reduce crime in cities. His leadership on priority programs including the COPS program, the Byrne program, the Local Law Enforcement Block Grant, the Violence Against Women Act, and the Brady Law made a dramatic difference in cities and states across the nation. Mr. Holder was an active participant in the national meetings of The U.S. Conference of Mayors, and always reached out to engage with mayors directly on the problems facing their cities.

It is our strong belief that under Mr. Holder's leadership as Attorney General of the United States, we will be able to restore the local-federal partnership that previously existed and address the problems of youth violence, gangs, illegal guns, and growing murder and crime rates in too many cities. And, we believe that Mr. Holder will help us better integrate the activities of the Department of Justice and the Department of Homeland Security in supporting our nation's first responders in the ongoing fight against terrorism.

Thank you for your continued leadership, and we stand ready to work with you and the Obama Administration in the coming years to make America safer and more secure.

Sincerely,

Tom Cochran
CEO and Executive Director

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