

President Barack Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500  
Fax: 202-456-2461

February 10, 2009

Dear President Obama:

We write you today as member mayors of the United States Conference of Mayors (USCM) and proponents of USCM's resolution to discontinue consumption of tar sands oil. We look forward to working with you to make our cities the backbone of America's new energy future.

We appreciate the energy goals you and your Administration have set, especially in regards to fighting global warming and reducing our dependence on fossil fuels. To date, 910 mayors, representing nearly 82 million Americans, have endorsed a climate protection agreement, committing to reduce their cities' greenhouse gas emissions to seven percent below 1990 levels by 2012.<sup>i</sup> The conference continues to adopt resolutions to strengthen these climate goals and ensure real change occurs.

Important to cities achieving their climate goals is USCM's resolution to prevent or discontinue municipal purchase of high carbon fuels, such as Canadian tar sands oil.<sup>ii</sup> We understand that your first foreign visit will be to Canada, and that global warming and energy issues are likely to be on the agenda. As you prepare for this meeting, we want you to be aware of USCM's resolution to discourage tar sands oil consumption within American cities, and the environmental and energy security reasons behind that decision.

Canadian tar sands oil has even greater global warming and environmental impacts than conventional oil. Our growing reliance on this oil source is of paramount concern as we set out to ensure that our energy security and climate security goals are complementary. In order to provide true energy security, numerous U.S. mayors and your Administration have pledged to rebuild our economy through developing domestic, renewable energy infrastructure and increasing energy efficiency, not by exacerbating U.S. consumption of fossil fuels.

During your discussions with Canada we ask that you represent cities that have already pledged to move away from tar sands oil and emphasize the importance of this commitment to the U.S.'s ability to achieve emissions targets, as well as our national goal of promoting low carbon fuels and environmentally sustainable energy solutions.

Included in this letter a copy of the High Carbon Fuels resolution.

Please feel free to contact us with any questions or comments.

Sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_/s/\_\_\_\_\_  
Frank Cownie  
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Energy Committee Member, USCM  
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\_\_\_\_\_/s/\_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_/s/\_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_/s/\_\_\_\_\_  
Christopher Cabaldon  
Mayor, West Sacramento, CA  
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West Sacramento, CA 95691

cc:

- Secretary of Energy, Steven Chu
- Secretary of Interior, Ken Salazar
- Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton
- EPA Administrator, Lisa Jackson

attachments:

- High Carbon Fuels Resolution

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<sup>i</sup> United States Conference of Mayors. "Mayors Climate Protection Center."  
<http://www.usmayors.org/climateprotection/about.htm>.

<sup>ii</sup> United States Conference of Mayors. "High Carbon Fuels Resolution." Adopted on June 24, 2008 at the 76<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting. [http://www.usmayors.org/resolutions/76th\\_conference/energy\\_05.asp](http://www.usmayors.org/resolutions/76th_conference/energy_05.asp).