



# **The United States Conference of Mayors**

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## **STATEMENT OF THE UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF MAYORS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TOM COCHRAN ON BARTON ENERGY BILL**

Washington, D.C. – “On behalf of the nation’s mayors, The United States Conference of Mayors is appalled and shocked that Congress is moving to mark up a proposal put forth by Energy and Commerce Chairman Joe Barton (TX) without input from the nation’s mayors or discussions with other public stakeholders.

While we support Congress’ efforts to address the nation’s energy challenges, we adamantly oppose at this critical time in the nation’s history any move to strip state and local governments of their authority.

Chairman Barton’s *Gasoline for America’s Security Act of 2005* includes provisions that preempt state and local governments’ authority to decide where refinery facilities are placed in individual communities. The bill also seeks to modify New Source Review requirements, and if enacted, will severely impact our air quality and make our cities more polluted and unhealthy.

It is imperative that Members of Congress hear from cities that would be directly affected by any changes to laws that preempt state and local authority.

Local-elected leaders take this issue very seriously. We strongly urge Congress to consider the expertise of state and local officials in devising energy policy to rebuild the costal communities impacted by Hurricane Katrina.”

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