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CEO AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TOM COCHRAN



THE UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF MAYORS

February 28, 2024

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker of the House
United States House of
Representatives
U.S. Capitol Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Minority Leader
United States House of
Representatives
2433 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Speaker Johnson, Leader Jeffries, Majority Leader Schumer, and Leader McConnell,

With federal government agencies set to run out of money in two phases beginning Friday, American mayors urge the House and Senate to do what is needed to avoid a lapse in appropriations. A government shutdown of any length threatens the significant economic progress we have made since the pandemic, and the impacts could be long-lasting for American cities.

American metro economies represent 90 percent of economic activity in this country, and even a brief shutdown of federal services and programs would impact millions of people living in them. A shutdown isn't just a Washington problem. Eighty five percent of the federal workforce live outside of Washington, D.C., and many of them live paycheck to paycheck. A shutdown means a household crisis for millions of people who need to pay their rent and buy food for their families.

After numerous short-term extensions, we believe it is important to reach a long-term funding solution that protects investments in mental health, housing, infrastructure, clean energy, and other critical priorities. This is no time to play games or to allow partisanship to derail the American economy and its recovery.

Cities don't simply shut down. We must continue providing services to the residents we serve. But many cities rely on long-standing partnerships between the federal and local governments. Any disruption to that partnership could threaten public safety, food and housing security, infrastructure, and our small businesses. And the longer a shutdown lasts, the worse it gets with a cascading effect of missed payments and lapses in critical programs and grants upon which city residents rely. Even after a shutdown, history has shown that things do not simply snap back to normal, and the impacts would be felt for months.

The American economy remains strong but vulnerable to self-inflicted wounds. We should not risk our global reputation, credit rating, or the wellbeing of our people with a pointless government shutdown. Mayors urge you to keep our government open for the millions of Americans counting on you.

Sincerely,



Hillary Schieve
Mayor of Reno, NV
President



Andrew Ginther
Mayor of Columbus, OH
Vice President



David Holt
Mayor of Oklahoma City, OK
Second Vice President



Tom Cochran
CEO and Executive Director

Cc: United States House of Representatives
United States Senate