



THE UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF MAYORS

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October 16, 2013

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The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
S-221
Washington, D.C.

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Republican Leader
U.S. Senate
S-230
Washington, D.C.

Dear Leader Reid and Leader McConnell:

On behalf of the nation's mayors, we strongly encourage passage today of the bi-partisan agreement to re-open the government and avoid a catastrophic default on meeting the obligations of the United States.

As mayors of both urban and suburban cities, we represent the nation's 362 metro economies that account for over 90% of the nation's Gross Domestic Product, nearly 90% of labor income, and 86% of the nation's jobs. According to our metro economic projections through IHS Global Insight, 94% of our nation's future economic growth will occur in cities and their metro areas. We will absorb a projected 85 million people over the coming decades. Yet only about one-third of our metros have regained their pre-recession peak employment levels. We cannot afford the instability and dangerous uncertainty that a closed government and a historic default would bring upon our economy and our citizens.

We strongly support the bi-partisan agreement and urge its passage today.

Sincerely,

Scott Smith
Mayor of Mesa
President

Cc: Members of the United States Senate