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March 18, 2011

The Honorable Ken Salazar
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

The Honorable Tom Vilsack
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Secretaries Salazar and Vilsack:

On behalf of America’s 19,000 cities and towns, the National League of Cities has appreciated serving as a partner with federal, state, tribal and county representatives in providing strategic leadership and oversight for wildland fire issues. Over the last several months, with Mayor Mary Hamann-Roland, mayor of Apple Valley, Minnesota, as our representative to the Wildland Fire Leadership Council (WFLC), we have collaborated with government officials to develop a national cohesive strategy that recognizes the importance of engaging all levels of government in this important mission. We now take this opportunity to support the *Report to Congress* and a *National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy*, which are being submitted to you today.

As an organization, we believe that the protection of communities should be central to any wildfire protection plan. We recognize and support the work that WFLC has done to promote the restoration and maintenance of resilient landscapes, fire-adapted communities, and safe and effective fire response. Thank you for welcoming the local government perspective in preparing this cohesive strategy. We look forward to continuing our partnership in the next phases of its implementation.

Sincerely,

Donald J. Borut
Executive Director

