

May 7, 2012

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:

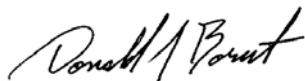
On behalf of over 19,000 cities and towns represented by the National League of Cities (NLC), I am writing to express support for the *National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy Phase II National Report* and to thank you for the ongoing opportunity to collaborate with federal, state, tribal and county officials on strategic leadership and oversight for wildland fire issues.

Mayor Mary Hamann-Roland of Apple Valley, Minnesota, NLC's representative on the Wildland Fire Leadership Council (WFLC) and Assistant City Manager Mary Jacobs of Sierra Vista, Arizona, a local government representative on the Wildland Fire Executive Council (WFEC), have both expressed to NLC their deep appreciation for the intergovernmental partnership you have convened to conduct regional assessments of the objectives and goals previously identified on the national level.

As the oldest and largest national organization representing municipal governments throughout the United States, NLC supports the valuable work that WFLC and WFEC has done to provide flexible strategies for implementing the guiding principles and foundational values reflected in first phase of this important endeavor. In addition, NLC also applauds the initiative WFLC and WFEC have taken to include input from every level of government.

Thank you again for welcoming the local government perspective in furthering this cohesive strategy. We look forward to continuing our partnership in the final phase of its implementation.

Sincerely,



Donald J. Borut
Executive Director