



OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CITY HALL, CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139

(617) 349-4260

August 7, 1992

Mr. Donald J. Borut, Executive Director
National League of Cities
1301 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D. C. 20004

Dear Mr. Borut:

Enclosed please find a resolution of the Cambridge City Council supporting the House-passed Urban Aid Bill, HR # 11, and the National League of Cities legislative agenda.

Your kind attention in this matter will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

D. Margaret Drury
Temporary City Clerk

DMD/dl



City of Cambridge

AMENDED ORDER
47.

IN CITY COUNCIL

August 3, 1992

COUNCILLOR DUEHAY
VICE MAYOR CYR
COUNCILLOR TOOMEY
COUNCILLOR WOLF

ORDERED: That the Cambridge City Council respectfully requests the Massachusetts Congressional delegation to give its most urgent attention during the current special session to the attached agenda of the National League of Cities; and be it further

ORDERED: That the Cambridge City Council be recorded in support of the House-passed Urban Aid Bill, H.R. # 11 without additional amendments; and be it further

ORDERED: That a copy of this order be transmitted to Senators Kerry and Kennedy forthwith and a copy to Donald J. Borut, Executive Director of the National League of Cities.


In City Council August 3, 1992.

Adopted as amended by the affirmative vote of nine members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, Temporary City Clerk.

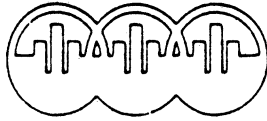
A true copy;

ATTEST:-


D. Margaret Drury
Temporary City Clerk

RECEIVED BY
OFFICE OF THE CLERK

1992 JUL 22 PM 1:54



CAMBRIDGE MA.

FIVE CRITICAL ISSUES FOR CITIES AND TOWNS

Issue 1: CITY AID

Background. The House passed and sent to the Senate a bill (HR 11), the urban aid bill, which includes permanent extensions of the expired mortgage revenue and small issue idb bond programs, \$5 billion in tax benefits and direct aid for up to 50 urban and rural enterprise zones, and other municipal tax relief measures. That \$17 billion bipartisan package includes the following key provisions for cities and towns:

- Permanent reauthorizations of the four expired priority municipal tax programs;
- Creation of up to 50 rural and urban enterprise zones over the next five years beginning with eight urban and eight rural zones this year;
- A five-year, \$2.5 billion Enterprise Community Block Grant program for enterprise zone cities and towns; and
- Increased authority for the issuance of a new kind of tax exempt redevelopment bonds by cities and towns with enterprise zones.

The bill will neither reach enough cities nor provide enough credit to make available financing for small businesses and job opportunities.

Local Impact. Changing the tax laws to provide incentives for banks to purchase your notes or bonds would both reduce your city's cost of financing as well as encourage your local banks to be partners in economic development. Changing the restrictions on small issue idbs would enable your city to provide low interest rate financing for small businesses to create job opportunities.

Action. Contact your Senators to urge them to broaden HR 11 to help more communities by supporting the following provisions:

- Creation of a new Distressed Areas Bond Program, providing a new program outside the state private activity bond volume cap, for the issuance of bonds for distressed areas;
- Modification of current restrictions on small issue idbs to permit their use for certain commercial purposes in distressed areas; and
- Modification of the current restrictions on bank deductibility to permit full bank

Action. Contact your Congressional delegation urging their support of the House version of the reauthorization bill and of \$4 billion in funding or appropriations for CDBG and \$1.5 billion for HOME.

Issue 4: FULL FUNDING FOR SURFACE TRANSPORTATION

Background. Last December, President Bush signed the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) which set significantly higher funding levels for highway and public transportation programs. ISTEA set surface transportation funding for next year at \$20.5 billion for the first time ensuring that all of our federal gas taxes on the Highway Trust Fund be returned to communities. But the promise has not been kept. The President and House Appropriations committee proposed spending more than \$3 billion less than the new ISTEA law promised. An NLC-supported House amendment added \$2.4 billion back to the Surface Transportation Program (HR 5518) by taking savings from foreign aid and dedicating them to transportation priorities in our communities. This House amendment would create 150,000 jobs.

Local Impact. Unless the Senate fully funds the new Surface Transportation Act, public transportation funds in your community will be cut by 10 percent, highway funds will be cut by 15 percent. That will cut jobs, economic development, and your city's own planned improvements.

Action. Contact your Senators to urge their support of HR 5518 as passed by the House to ensure full funding for surface transportation programs in your community.

Issue 5: CABLE TELEVISION

Background. Cable companies act as virtual monopolies in almost every city and town. Cable subscription rates are increasing as much as three times the rate of inflation, and consumers who want the educational, news, sports, and entertainment shows available only on cable have no choice but to pay.

Local Impact. Citizens who are frustrated with increases in their cable rates, with no comparable increase in service, blame city hall. Under the current cable law, local elected officials are unable to reign in cable operators until renewal time and franchise agreements are often extended for ten years or more.

Action. The Senate has completed work on its cable bill (S 12) and the House bill (HR 4850) was approved by the Energy and Commerce Committee last month. HR 4850 emerges as the strongest vehicle for cable consumer relief in the four years local elected officials have been working on this issue. Contact your Representative to urge support of immediate action on HR 4850 and to oppose any efforts to weaken the bill. Encourage your Representative to support a damages immunity amendment expected to be offered on the floor that would protect cities from large damage claims by cable companies for any regulatory actions they may take under the legislation.

Local Impact. EPA estimates that communities will face initial capital costs of \$1.6 billion and annual operating costs of \$180 million. The American Water Works Association estimates capital costs at \$12 billion and annual operation and management costs at \$2.5 billion, costs which will be passed on to local citizens in terms of increased water use fees.

Action. Senator Robert Smith (R-NH) has circulated a letter to Senators urging the Appropriations Committee Chairman Robert Byrd (D-WV) to adopt an amendment precluding EPA's use of appropriated funds to promulgate the radon regulation until EPA completes a risk assessment on the radon rule. Urge your two Senators to join with Senator Smith in requesting inclusion of this amendment in the Fiscal 1993 HUD-Independent Agencies Appropriations bill.

FAIR LABOR STANDARDS ACT

Background. Many cities have been caught by a technicality of Labor Department regulations and faced with large cash judgments related to compliance with FLSA under the "salary basis" test. Courts have recently found some practices illegal for administrative, executive, and professional municipal employees under the "salary basis" FLSA test.

Local Impact. These interpretations could result in the classification of virtually all municipal employees as overtime eligible. Costs nationally could amount to billions.

Action. Urge your Congressional delegation to cosponsor HR 5112 and S 1670, which would eliminate the salary basis test in public employment. At the same time, urge U.S. Labor Secretary Lynn Martin to issue regulations to provide relief from these standards which don't reflect public sector reality.

Issue 3: HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Background. Both the House and Senate will vote on reauthorization bills to extend the nation's housing and community development laws beyond their current expiration date of September 30, 1992. Included in these bills are the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and the HOME state and local housing block grant programs. Each program would provide local communities with direct assistance and the flexibility to utilize these funds in a way that meets your community's particular housing and community development needs. The Senate bill includes a requirement that cities test and assess the extent of hazardous levels of lead-based paint in federally-subsidized housing.

Impact. Current housing and community development activities will be delayed and new activities will be deferred if a reauthorization bill is not enacted this year. Congress is supportive of these programs particularly CDBG. The lead paint provision could totally wipe out your housing dollars if the Senate bill is enacted.

deductibility and comparable insurance deductibility for banks or insurance companies that purchase or hold general obligation, revenue, or private activity bonds where the proceeds are used in distressed areas or for a bank with a Superior Community Reinvestment Act credit rating.

Issue 2: MANDATES

The federal government continues to impose unfunded mandates on cities and towns. Your help now to modify three such mandates -- stormwater, drinking water, and FLSA -- is critical.

STORMWATER

Background. Municipalities currently face the prospect of implementing a federally-mandated program to manage stormwater run off that is projected to cost nearly \$1 trillion. While municipalities over 100,000 are covered by the current EPA regulations for stormwater management, municipalities with populations below that level will be required to obtain a permit for every stormwater outfall (at least 8 million) when the current moratorium on this requirement expires on October 1, 1992. An extension of the moratorium would only postpone implementation of the program in smaller communities and do nothing to provide relief to the cities already covered by EPA's regulations.

Local Impact. The unfunded stormwater mandate could increase projected annual capital costs in your city by as much as \$8,800 per person; operation and maintenance costs could exceed \$11,000 per person per year.

Action. Urge your Congressional delegation to act immediately to amend stormwater program including:

- Amend the Clean Water Act to regulate municipal stormwater run off under a newly-enacted provision separate from the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit program;
- Require management of municipal stormwater through implementation of Best Management Practices;
- Enact a legislative prohibition on requirements for end-of-pipe treatment;
- Incorporate municipal "industrial" facilities (e.g., airports, sanitary landfills, sewage treatment plants, vehicle maintenance garages) as part of a system- or jurisdiction-wide stormwater management program; and
- Measure compliance on implementation of site-specific Best Management Practices.

RADON IN DRINKING WATER

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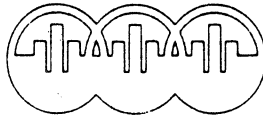
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City of Cambridge

ORIGINAL ORDER
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August 3, 1992

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TRANSMISSION CONFIRMATION No. =004135

DATE/TIME	AUG 1 1992 1:32PM
DURATION	2m15s
TRANSMITTER	CAMBRIDGE CITY Manager 617 868 8159
RECEIVER	<u>Senahr Ted Kenney</u> 812022242417
PAGES XMITTED	03
PAGES ERRORED	
RESULT	OK
COMM. MODE	CS
RESOLUTION	NORMAL

1005501665

TRANSMISSION CONFIRMAT

No. = 004134

DATE/TIME	AUG 4 1992 1:29 PM
DURATION	2m 43s
TRANSMITTER	Cambridge City Manager 617 868 8159
RECEIVER	----- 812022242417
PAGES XMITTED	04
PAGES ERRORED	P. 0.
RESULT	T225
COMM. MODE	G3
RESOLUTION	Normal

1005501665

TRANSMISSION CONFIRMATION REPORT No. =004133

DATE/TIME	Aug 4, 1992 1:23 PM
DURATION	3m 21s
TRANSMITTER	Cambridge City Manager 617 868 8159
RECEIVER	Senat John Kerry 202 224 8525
PAGES XMITTED	05
PAGES ERRORED	
RESULT	OK
COMM. MODE	G3
RESOLUTION	Normal



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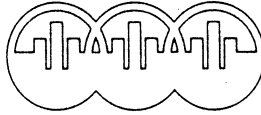
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CONSENT ORDER #47
VM Cyp Jorney, Wall s-54
Councillor Duehay re: National League
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*Order adopted
as amended.
8/7/92 letter sent to
Natl League of Cities @*