



Forum for Community Leaders

October 30, 2015

The Honorable Deb Fischer U.S. Senate 383 Russell Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Virginia Foxx U.S. House of Representatives 2350 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable James Lankford U.S. Senate B40C Dirksen Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Loretta Sanchez U.S. House of Representatives 1211 Longworth House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: The Unfunded Mandates Information and Transparency Act (S. 189/H.R. 50)

Dear Senators Fischer and Lankford and Representatives Foxx and Sanchez:

On behalf of the Forum for Community Leaders (FCL) and the mayors who are listed below, we appreciate your sponsorship of legislation that will help to improve transparency related to the cost of federal mandates on local governments, as required under the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) of 1995 (P.L. 104-4).

The Forum for Community Leaders is a 501(c)(4) non-profit corporation that facilitates and encourages robust communication among its municipalities in order to promote good policy making and the sharing of good government ideas.

FCL supports language that provides more transparency and consistency to the federal regulatory process so that the “true costs” of proposed federal regulations can be accessed

and properly debated by interested parties – especially local governments – before the proposed rules become final and gain the force of law.

Ongoing efforts to reign in federal deficits and manage the national debt have resulted in reductions in funding for local-federal grants and programs. While FCL supports the need to put the nation’s fiscal house in order, it is important that these efforts do not result in the imposition of new or expanded unfunded or underfunded intergovernmental mandates. The provisions of the bill are key components in providing broader protections to states and localities and creating both awareness and accountability of federal mandates.

We commend you for your efforts in this regard and we look forward to continue working with you and your staff as this legislation moves forward. If you have any questions, please contact Lee Cowen (202-285-7777); lee@strongcommunityleaders.com) in FCL’s Washington, D.C. office.

Respectfully,

Mayor Scott Avedisian
Warwick, RI

Mayor Howard Wiggs
Lakeland, FL

Mayor Ruth Carney
Hot Springs, AR

Mayor Douglas Athas
Garland, TX

City Councilman Aubry Alexander
Charleston, SC

Mayor Charles Lacey
Winter Springs, FL

Mayor Maher Maso
Frisco, TX

Mayor Lou Ogden
Tualatin, OR

Mayor Roger C. Claar
Bolingbrook, IL