

**Draft**

**Resolution in Support of the Green Communities Act (H.R. 2222)**

**WHEREAS**, The U.S. Conference of Mayors has previously adopted strong policy resolutions for cities, communities, and the federal government to take actions to revitalize neighborhoods and stabilize property values; and

**WHEREAS**, cleaning and greening vacant lots stabilizes property values and reverses property value declines suffered by neighboring residents; and

**WHEREAS**, neighborhood greening can change people's perceptions of their neighborhoods, promote social connectivity, and result in safer communities; and

**WHEREAS**, trees and landscaping are mentally restorative, reducing symptoms of irritability, fatigue, and physiological stress in urban residents; and

**WHEREAS**, shared green spaces, particularly those having trees, help strengthen social ties among neighbors; and

**WHEREAS**, communities that have greening programs may be more resilient and empowered to solve problems; and

**WHEREAS**, in Philadelphia, neighborhood commercial corridors with green streetscapes provide a boost of 23% in value to nearby residential properties; and

**WHEREAS**, consumers are willing to pay up to 12% more for goods and services in business districts having mature tree canopy; and

**WHEREAS**, tree canopy and pervious soils are green stormwater infrastructure that use natural processes to infiltrate, evapotranspire, and reuse stormwater on site where it occurs rather than transporting the water to a stream or treatment facility; and

**WHEREAS**, sustained urban forest planting, care and management ensures environmental, economic and social benefits for residents,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to pass and fully fund the Green Communities Act of 2009 (H.R. 2222) to improve the environment, economy and stability of neighborhoods; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors desires an increase in federal funding to enhance the quality of life of city residents through investment in greening projects that engage the public in hands-on neighborhood stewardship of urban natural resources; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors

**Projected Cost:** \$30 million for each of fiscal years 2010, 2013, and 2014; and \$90 million for each of fiscal years 2011 and 2012.