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July 26, 2011

President Barack Obama
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Senator Richard Burr
Representative G.K. Butterfield
Representative Renee Ellmers
Representative Walter Jones, Jr.
Representative David E. Price
Representative Virginia Foxx

Representative Howard Coble
Representative Mike McIntyre
Representative Larry Kissell
Representative Sue Myrick
Representative Patrick McHenry
Representative Health Shuler
Representative Mel Watt
Representative R. Bradley Miller

Dear Mr. President and Honorable Members of the NC Congressional Delegation:

As members of the North Carolina Metropolitan Mayors Coalition we have developed a great appreciation of the many similarities among our state's largest cities. We are the economic engines of our great state. Our residents depend on us for core services such as police and fire protection. Our local businesses depend on us for the infrastructure that allows for the movement of their goods and services. In turn, we rely on federal programs such as the Community Development Block Grant, Community Oriented Policing Programs, and transportation dollars to provide those needed services. We are greatly concerned that all of that is at risk as we listen to the discussion taking place in Washington around the debt ceiling crisis.

Failure to successfully moderate the discussion and bring the parties together to resolve the debt ceiling crisis is unacceptable. Our cities cannot withstand a deeper recession. We cannot weather instability in the municipal bond market which will further slow infrastructure investments and job creation. Mayors are in their community everyday working together with businesses to find innovative ways to create jobs. There is no greater priority for any mayor in our Coalition. We cannot stress enough the damage you will do to our cities and our State if you do not find common ground and resolve the debt ceiling issue.

We are asking you to encourage your leadership to set aside the partisan bickering and political posturing and demonstrate to our country that Congress is focused on creating stability in our markets. We are asking you to focus again, above all else, on job creation. And we are asking you to address the debt ceiling now.

Sincerely,

Durham Mayor William V. "Bill" Bell
Chair, North Carolina Metropolitan Mayors Coalition

Mayor Susan Kluttz, Salisbury
Mayor Anthony Foxx, Charlotte
Mayor Allen Joines, Winston-Salem
Mayor Terry Bellamy, Asheville
Mayor Jennifer Stultz, Gastonia
Mayor Rebecca Smothers, High Point
Mayor J. Scott Padgett, Concord