



December 19, 2016

Honorable Donald J. Trump
President-elect of the United States
Trump/Pence Transition Office
1717 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Honorable Mike Pence
Vice President-elect of the United States
Trump/Pence Transition Office
1717 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President-elect Trump and Vice President-elect Pence:

On behalf of city and town leaders across Colorado we want you to know we stand ready to serve as your partners at the local level. We are problem solvers on a daily basis to help make our communities wonderful places in which to work, live, and play. We wish you much success as you continue to build your Administration:

In that regard, we wanted to share with you some of our thoughts:

- We wish to see a strong intergovernmental partnership between your Administration and state and local leaders. One way to do this, perhaps, is to designate Vice President-Elect Pence, as a former and distinguished Governor, to chair an intergovernmental council which would meet on a regular basis with state and local governments. The council's membership would consist of the leadership from the various Washington-based state and local government organizations, like our National League of Cities. It would be desirable to have some of these meetings occur outside of Washington. The purpose of the council would be to facilitate an honest exchange of views and ideas among and between federal, state, and local officials. Staffing and funding of this could be minimal, and yet be quite impactful.
- The tax exempt status of municipal bonds is a critical component to build infrastructure at the state and local level. Few public improvement financing tools are as important. From your own extensive background in the private sector, we know you understand and recognize this. We strongly urge protection of municipal bonds in any tax reform debate moving forward.
- Another aspect of tax reform especially important to the states and local governments is "e-fairness" taxation. We very much would like your Administration's support for working with the Congress to allow us to collect taxes on internet purchases. This will level the playing field for Main Street small businesses, and help to create greater tax policy certainty for us.
- Your endorsement for going "big" in the policy arena of infrastructure is hugely important, and we urge full participation by state, county, and municipal leaders in the discussion as you develop your plans. We stand ready to help you. Several areas of importance to Colorado municipal officials are transportation, transit, water, and wastewater. Affordable housing is equally important to us here, so an important focus on this needs to be provided by HUD.
- Burdensome regulations imposed by federal agencies come with a cost to the states and to local governments. Rather than call out anything specific in this letter, we would certainly urge caution as new regulations are proposed and where there is a discernable impact upon state and local governments, your Administration strive to keep us all fully engaged.
- You have expressed strong support for law enforcement, and we are very interested in furthering and enhancing our federal partnership regarding community policing programs administered through the Justice Department.
- We want a partnership with your Administration concerning the issue of marijuana. As you know, Colorado was one of the early states to legalize under certain circumstances the use of recreational marijuana. We hope for a strong partnership with the various federal agencies and clarity on law enforcement along with federal banking issues.
- Our local communities embrace persons of many different cultures and backgrounds. The fabric of our cities and towns is strengthened because of this diversity. We would welcome a further dialogue about this.
- We desire a strong partnership with the federal government around the issue of resiliency and believe that pragmatic and practical solutions must be developed among and between federal, state, and local government interests to address making local communities more resilient against the changing forces of nature. A strong relationship with you and your Administration is essential.

We hope the issues raised in this letter are of some use to you as you move forward. We'd be honored to meet with appropriate members of your staff at any time to discuss these points more fully. In any event, we stand ready to serve as a resource to you and wish you and yours the very best this holiday season. Thank you for your interest in our views.

Sincerely,

Sam Mamet
Executive Director