

April 29, 2013

The Honorable Mayor Paul Soglin
City of Madison Mayor's Office
210 MLK Jr Blvd, Room 403
City-County Building
Madison, WI 53703

Re: Invitation to Become an Inaugural Signatory to the Resilient Communities for America Agreement

Dear Mayor Soglin,

I'm writing to invite you to join an exclusive group of local elected officials for a major national leadership opportunity in response to America's climate, energy, and economic challenges.

Over the past two years, we have faced three related challenges. Extreme weather events have taken hundreds of lives and cost us an estimated \$188 billion. At the same time we remain dependent on costly foreign energy that exposes us to volatile price spikes, and ongoing economic uncertainty has left millions out of work and communities starved for investment. I know you agree that we cannot ignore these issues. We must create more resilient communities—able to bounce back from disruptions and maintain a good quality of life for all.

As one of our nation's recognized sustainability leaders, we would be honored for you to become an Inaugural Signatory of the Resilient Communities for America Agreement. This historic sign-on letter and campaign provide a platform for local elected officials across the country to proclaim their commitment to creating stronger, more resilient cities, towns, and counties—and at the same time to receive free capacity-building resources from leading organizations.

The catalyst for this movement is elected officials like you: nationally recognized leaders on sustainability and urban issues who will be the first to stand in the national spotlight and call for bold action. As an Inaugural Signatory, you will be joined by a select group of mayors and county leaders (approximately 30) from the largest cities as well as the most vulnerable ones. Through our intensive promotional program, your voices and leadership will in turn inspire thousands more local elected officials to join the campaign and strengthen their communities in the coming years.

While the White House, federal agencies, and Congressional leaders have all recognized the importance of building resilience, we know that the work and leadership must come



from the local level. You and other leaders around the country are taking proven actions to prepare for extreme weather and a changing climate; to pursue the energy security that is so vital to our interests; to rebuild outdated community infrastructure; and to attract investment and create jobs by building safer and more sustainable places. That's resilience in action. The solutions are here today, and the opportunities must not slip away.

To learn more about the Resilient Communities for America campaign, we've attached the Agreement letter, a campaign overview, and an FAQ. The campaign is being led by ICLEI USA, the National League of Cities, the U.S. Green Building Council, and the World Wildlife Fund. ICLEI staff is on hand to answer your questions and provide more detail.

We kindly ask you to share with us your decision by May 31, so we can plan for your participation accordingly. Thank you very much for your leadership and for your consideration of this opportunity. We hope you will join us.

Sincerely,



Frank Cownie
Mayor, Des Moines, IA
ICLEI USA Policy Council



Michael Schmitz
ICLEI USA Executive Director

