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For Immediate Release

Mayor Ron Dellums Joins National, Bipartisan Infrastructure Coalition

Oakland – Today Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger (CA), Governor Ed Rendell (PA), and Mayor Michael Bloomberg (NYC), co-chairs of Building America’s Future (www.BAFuture.org), announced that Mayor Ron Dellums has joined its bipartisan and national infrastructure coalition comprised of state and locally elected officials to help secure a renewed federal commitment to infrastructure.

Building America’s Future is dedicated to smart infrastructure investment – energy systems, roads and bridges, mass transit, water and sewer systems, rail, ports, airports, levees and dams, schools and housing – to enhance the quality of life and safety of our communities, create jobs, and promote energy independence.

“If we invest wisely, our infrastructure needs can actually open up opportunities for a better quality of life, the creation of new jobs that can’t be outsourced, and a greener and more energy-efficient future,” said Mayor Ron Dellums. “I look forward to working with this diverse coalition to secure additional federal investment on the critical infrastructure needed to keep our community safe and local economy strong.”

Recently, Mayor Dellums proposed the idea to organize a major program framed in the context of public works. He believes this strategy would have three key components for the community: (1) it would be the largest jobs producing program in modern history; (2) cities like Oakland are being asked to absorb greater growth by virtue of the challenges of climate protection and the mayor believes that fuel efficiency, transportation efficiency, smart planning and sustainability will continue to drive our cities forward. In order to take advantage of this growth, cities will have to adapt to new technology and build upon our current infrastructure; and (3) public safety. The Bay Area sits on top of several major earthquake faults and Oakland needs to invest in its rapidly deteriorating infrastructure to avoid the same devastation seen in other urban areas following major natural disasters, such as Hurricane Katrina. Mayor Dellums believes that a public works focused infrastructure program makes sense, because infrastructure is not just about bridges and roads, it’s what the cities of America are built upon.

“We welcome Mayor Dellums and look forward to working with him as we continue to ensure that infrastructure funding is treated like the national priority it should be,” said Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger (CA). “No one wants their child in portable classrooms, or stuck in traffic rather than at home with their families. Infrastructure has a direct link to our quality of life, and Americans deserve it to be safe, efficient and modern.”

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“As mayors and governors, we see first-hand the success and failure of federal infrastructure investment,” said New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg (I). “History has taught us that failing to invest in our infrastructure is akin to walking away from our future. It is not just about investing more money; it’s about investing it in the right places in an efficient and accountable way.”

“Polls show almost unanimous support for infrastructure investment, regardless of political or geographic lines,” said Governor Ed Rendell (D-PA). “But Americans are tired of wasteful spending that does nothing to increase the safety or economic vitality of their communities. Faced with shrinking revenues and budget deficits, creating entities like the National Infrastructure Bank can help cities and states provide the high quality of life our citizens deserve. It will also help to ensure that regional and national projects of importance are financed based on merit, rather than politics. We look forward to working with all of our members to help guarantee that infrastructure investment be spent wisely and effectively.”

Infrastructure Facts:

- 66 percent of California’s major roads are in poor or mediocre condition (American Society of Civil Engineers), and a third of Oakland's streets in poor condition or worse (City of Oakland);
- California spends \$2 billion less each year on highway maintenance and rehabilitation than is needed (American Society of Civil Engineers);
- California’s drinking water infrastructure needs an investment of \$27.87 billion over the next 20 years (Environmental Protection Agency);
- Most of the Oakland sanitary sewer system is over 50 years old, and some as old as 100 years (City of Oakland Public Works Agency); and
- California’s ports handled 216 million tons of waterborne traffic in 2005, ranking it 3rd in the nation (American Society of Civil Engineers).

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For more information on Mayor Ron Dellums and the City of Oakland, please visit and bookmark the following Web accounts: