



**Office of the Mayor
City of Los Angeles**

ANTONIO R. VILLARAIGOSA

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MAYOR VILLARAIGOSA LEADS LOCAL DELEGATION TO WASHINGTON DC TO CALL FOR RENEWED INVESTMENT IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA'S ECONOMY

Mayor Villaraigosa meets with congressional leaders, the Attorney General, and the Secretaries of Education and Energy to advocate for greater investment in LA's police hiring plan, school reform efforts and environmental agenda

WASHINGTON, DC - Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa led a delegation of local business and civic leaders to Washington, DC, today to call on congressional leaders to expand investments in Southern California's infrastructure and uphold the federal government's commitment to boosting LA's economy.

"There has never been a more critical time for Southern California's leaders to set aside our differences and come together to revitalize and revamp our region's economy," Mayor Villaraigosa said. "Los Angeles and its neighbors will play a crucial role in our nation's economic recovery, and we have traveled to Washington to call on congressional leaders to give us our fair share of federal dollars and help us get our economy back on-track."

Over the course of the trip, the delegation met with over 100 members of Congress and Obama Administration officials to advocate for federal investments that create and preserve more than one million jobs through the region's ports, airports and other economic assets.

Behind the Mayor's leadership, the group also called for legislation that benefits the Southern California region and federal stimulus dollars to support public transportation projects; environmental initiatives that boost the green economy; school construction; and public safety strategies.

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“At this time of unprecedented challenges for every citizen, it is our responsibility to lay the foundation for our long-term prosperity and take action today that produces success tomorrow,” Mayor Villaraigosa said. “Now more than ever, we must uphold our promise to make the American dream a reality for anyone willing to work for it, and we must do everything in our power to stand by our workers and establish the building blocks of progress for the future.”

As part of the visit, Mayor Villaraigosa held a series of meetings with top Obama administration officials and cabinet secretaries to advocate for LA’s fair share of stimulus dollars for a wide range of City initiatives.

On Tuesday, the Mayor met with Secretary of Energy Stephen Chu to discuss LA’s efforts to green the port, expand the clean technology sector, and derive 20 percent of the City’s power from renewable energy sources by 2010.

Tomorrow, Mayor Villaraigosa will join LAPD Chief William Bratton in a session with Attorney General Eric Holder to call on the Justice Department to boost federal funding for LA’s police hiring efforts and the City’s gang prevention and intervention initiatives. He will also join LAUSD Superintendent Ramon Cortines and School Board President Monica Garcia to lobby Secretary of Education Arne Duncan for increased support for school construction and local education reform.

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