

# Mayors Johnson, Ballard Pledge to Reduce Foreign Oil Dependence Through Joint City Agreement

By Debra DeHaney-Howard

Conference of Mayors President Sacramento Mayor Kevin Johnson and Indianapolis Mayor Greg Ballard entered into a joint agreement, pledging to work together to reduce their respective cities dependency on foreign oil. The Memorandum of Intent (MOI), signed on May 21 during the closing session of the 2014 Electric Drive Transportation Association's Annual Meeting in Indianapolis, establishes a partnership between the two cities, and allows them to share best practices on a number of energy-related practices.

Under the agreement, the cities agree to work collaboratively on the following activities: reducing foreign oil in municipal fleets, promoting alternative fuel technologies to residents, developing clean energy and alternative transportation technologies, and implementing innovative financing mechanisms. Additionally, the cities will work together on educational forums that cover economic development and job creation, renewable energy, and energy security and smart grid technologies.



**At left, USCM President Sacramento Mayor Kevin Johnson and USCM Advisory Board Member Indianapolis Mayor Gregory Ballard sign Memorandum of Intent to reduce use of foreign oil.**

Emphasizing the importance of the MOI, Johnson said, "Mayors are leading in transportation sustainability by modernizing our city fleets. In Sacramento,

we cut our fleet's use of gasoline by one-third and lowered greenhouse gases by more than 3,000 metric tons between 2009 and 2013 by switching to alternative fuels. Our new agreement with Indianapolis signals cities are united in making this kind of progress."

"Our nation's security and economic vitality is threatened by foreign interests who control the price and access to oil," said Ballard. "Light transportation consumes about 40 percent of our oil; I am hoping Indy and Sacramento can lead the way, encouraging other cities, states, and companies to take similar action, thereby releasing the chokehold oil plays in our foreign policy."

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***- USCM President Sacramento Mayor Kevin Johnson***