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## **GOVERNOR RENDELL URGES NATION'S COUNTY LEADERS TO DEMAND MORE FEDERAL INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT**

*INVITES LEADERS TO JOIN BUILDING AMERICA'S FUTURE COALITION*

**KANSAS CITY, MO** – Pennsylvania Governor Edward G. Rendell today called on county leaders from across the country to demand that the federal government play a larger role in the funding of America's infrastructure.

"In the past 20 years, state and local governments across the country have been picking up more of the tab to build, maintain and expand the facilities and infrastructure people rely on," Governor Rendell told participants at the National Association of Counties' annual convention "If America is to continue competing in the global economic marketplace, we need an efficient and sound infrastructure; we need the commitment of greater federal resources to help counties and states meet these pressing needs."

Governor Rendell invited county officials to join the non-partisan *Building America's Future* coalition he founded earlier this year with California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and New York Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg. The coalition is working to raise awareness of the enormity of the infrastructure crisis facing the country and is committed to increasing federal funding.

"Without adequate infrastructure to quickly and safely move goods and people, our economy and traffic will stop dead in its tracks," Governor Rendell said. "We will have a much tougher job competing in the world markets."

"I am heartened that more than 70 county officials from across the country have decided to join Governor Schwarzenegger, Mayor Bloomberg and myself in this great coalition. I hope that their NACO colleagues from other jurisdictions join us in sending a message to Washington that the infrastructure funding crisis is upon us and it is high time we made funding our critical infrastructure a top national priority," said Governor Rendell.

Local elected officials who support greater federal investments in infrastructure can join the *Building America's Future* coalition by registering at [www.InvestInInfrastructure.org](http://www.InvestInInfrastructure.org).

For the coalition to be most effective in making its case to the next President and the next Congress that infrastructure funding needs to be a top priority, it is critically important that a broad cross section of elected officials from all political parties, all geographic areas and all levels of government are represented in *Building America's Future*.

Building America's Future's co-chairs have already spoken to the memberships of the National Governors Association and the U.S. Conference of Mayors and they plan to speak to other annual gatherings of national governmental organizations in the coming months to build a coalition of state and local government leaders who agree that the federal government needs to play a more vigorous role.

Additional information about the coalition is available at [www.InvestInInfrastructure.org](http://www.InvestInInfrastructure.org).

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