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## Mayor LaToya Cantrell of New Orleans Represents U.S. Cities and Mississippi River Corridor in White House Climate Event

Mayors Throughout Middle America Voice Critical Need for Climate Action Now to Secure most Essential Food-Producing River Basin on Earth

New Orleans, April 22, 2021 – Today, Mayor LaToya Cantrell of New Orleans participated in the White House session *Climate Action at All Levels* to mark Earth Day and the President’s announcement of commitments to combat climate change and reassert U.S. leadership in arriving at solution to the largest threat facing our world today.

“I am very honored to represent the people of New Orleans, the Mississippi River Corridor and my country at this vital moment in standing with President Biden to demonstrate what we as local leaders can do to take climate action and drive resiliency for our cities, our nation, and our planet,” explained **Mayor LaToya Cantrell of New Orleans, LA.**

“Mayors along the entire length of the Mississippi River support and stand with my friend and colleague Mayor Cantrell in her representation of our essential region to the subnational leaders of the world. Not only does she stand for our Mayors but also the most important food-producing river basin on Earth – the Mississippi,” emphasized **Mayor Sharon Weston Broome of Baton Rouge, LA and Co-Chair of the Mississippi River Cities & Towns Initiative.**

New Orleans, and C40 mayors from around the world continue to show how bold and creative political leadership can both protect and enhance people's lives, especially in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Their vision is for a green and just recovery that prioritizes creating green jobs particularly for those who need them the most, investing in crucial public services, protecting mass transit, supporting essential workers, and giving public spaces back to people and nature.

C40 cities like Mayor Cantrell are demonstrating how they can support national climate targets through local action and partner across all levels of government to make our economies more sustainable and build a more equitable future for all.

“Cities around the world and here in the U.S. have been implementing bold climate action for years in an effort to meet Paris Agreement goals,” said **Laura Jay, Regional Director for North America at C40 Cities**. “Climate leadership at the local and regional levels has been paramount to keeping us from further deepening the climate crisis, and U.S. cities in particular are well-positioned to partner with the federal government to meet the newly announced targets.”

The Mississippi River Basin serves a unique role in the world’s climate negotiations because it is the largest food-producing river basin on earth in terms of quantity, navigability, and untapped capacity.

“The Mississippi River Basin produces much of our planet's food supply. My fellow Mayors and I have watched our river and our basin respond to the shocks and impacts of climate change that have ultimately stressed and degraded the ecosystem services we rely on to produce 78 percent (78%) of the world’s feed grains and soy,” said **Mayor Cantrell**.

The Mississippi River basin can be an effective leverage point for ambitious climate commitments with some of the world’s largest GHG contributors. Article 6 of the Paris Accord can be used to expand climate performance through trade.

“The Mississippi River is our nation’s most important working river not just because the basin produces 92 percent (92%) of all U.S. Agricultural exports, but because the ecological systems that make all that production possible are fragile and must be sustained, not just for our basin, but for the Ganges, Indus, Yangtze, Yellow, Amazon, and Congo River Basins,” states **Mayor Bob Gallagher of Bettendorf, IA and Co-Chair of the Mississippi River Cities & Towns Initiative**.

# # #

**Mississippi River Cities & Towns Initiative ([MRCTI](#))** is a coalition of 100 mayors from across the Mississippi River Corridor which spans along ten states from Minnesota to Louisiana. The Mississippi River provides drinking water to more than 20 million people and 50 cities. More than 40 percent of the nation’s agricultural commodity output moves on the Mississippi River. The River’s resources support 1.5 million jobs and create \$496.7 billion in annual revenue.

**About the C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group:** C40 is a network of nearly 100 mayors of the world’s leading cities who are working to deliver the urgent action needed right now to confront the climate crisis and create a future where everyone, everywhere can thrive. Mayors of C40 cities are committed to using a science-based and people-focused approach to help the world limit global heating to 1.5°C and build healthy, equitable and resilient communities. Through a Global Green New Deal, mayors are working alongside a broad coalition of representatives from labor, business, the youth climate movement and civil society to go further and faster than ever before. The current Chair of C40 is Mayor of Los Angeles Eric Garcetti; and three-term Mayor of New York City Michael R. Bloomberg serves as President of the Board. C40’s work is made possible by our three strategic funders: Bloomberg Philanthropies, Children’s Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF), and Realdania.

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