

Resolution No.61

Submitted by:

The Honorable Sam Adams
Mayor of Portland, OR

The Honorable Jerry Sanders
Mayor of San Diego

The Honorable Mike McGinn
Mayor of Seattle

The Honorable Francis G. Slay
Mayor of St. Louis

SUPPORTING THE REINSTATEMENT OF THE SUPERFUND TAX

1. **WHEREAS**, “Superfund” is the name given to the environmental program established to address hazardous waste sites, and is also the name of the fund established by the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980; and,
2. **WHEREAS**, nearly 70 million Americans—10 million of whom are children – live within four miles of a Superfund site, and are consequently exposed to toxic waste such as arsenic, benzene, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), pesticides, mercury and a range of solvents, and potentially contaminated groundwater; and,
3. **WHEREAS**, the Superfund cleanup process is complex, as it involves the steps taken to assess sites, place them on the National Priorities List, and establish and implement appropriate cleanup plans; and,
4. **WHEREAS**, the Superfund cleanup program was largely financed through a “polluter pays” excise tax to ensure that parties who benefit from the manufacture or sale of substances that commonly cause environmental problems at hazardous waste sites, and not taxpayers, help bear the cost of cleanup when responsible parties cannot be identified; and,
5. **WHEREAS**, the Superfund “polluter pays” taxes expired on December 31, 1995, and since the expiration of the taxes, Superfund program funding has been largely financed from General Revenue transfers to the Superfund Trust Fund, thus burdening the taxpayer with the costs of cleaning up abandoned hazardous waste sites, and creating lengthy, burdensome and expensive legal proceedings; and,
6. **WHEREAS**, on June 21, 2010, the Obama Administration called on Congress to reinstate the lapsed Superfund “polluter pays” taxes, stating that “Our taxes should be

paying for teachers, police officers and infrastructure that is essential for sustainable growth -- not footing the bill for polluters;" and,

7. **WHEREAS**, the re-enactment of the Superfund tax will expedite the cleanup of Superfund sites across the country, thereby reducing risk to humans and the environment;
8. **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the United States Conference of Mayors urges the passage and enactment of H.R.1596, the Superfund Reinvestment Act to reinstate the Superfund excise tax.

Projected Cost: Unknown