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**Florida Governor Crist Opens US Mayors Global
Warming Summit
State and Local Government Partnerships Take Center Stage**

SUNDANCE, UTAH - Mayors from across the country heard opening remarks from Florida Governor Charlie Crist Sunday night at Robert Redford's Sundance Village retreat in Utah. Crist focused on the role that local and state governments can play together as the country addresses global warming. His keynote speech was followed by welcoming remarks from Robert Redford who has invited mayors here to share the latest information on global warming, and participate in workshops concerning concrete steps they can take to help their cities confront the challenges of climate change as part of the third annual Sundance Summit: A Mayors' Gathering on Climate Protection.

"In Florida we have learned to do more than simply talk about global climate change. We learned to be doers -- people of action. As our great conservationist President, Teddy Roosevelt, said, 'The man who really counts in the world is the doer,'" said Florida Governor Crist. "For that reason, I applaud Robert Redford for his leadership in this tremendous challenge facing our nation."

This is the third annual gathering of U.S. mayors at the Sundance Summit, co-hosted by Redford's Sundance Preserve, Salt Lake City Mayor Rocky Anderson, and ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI). A bi-partisan group of some 40 mayors, representing millions of Americans will attend this year's event from large and mid-size cities, as well as small towns, representing a diverse range of communities across the nation. The Summit comes as local officials and citizens in many parts of the U.S. cope with record-breaking heat waves and devastating floods, and follows a May report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) that reaffirmed the urgency of global warming, but said the worst impacts could be averted through energy efficiency and investment in cleaner technologies.

This year's Summit will put the IPCC's recommendations into action, providing mayors with an overview on the latest climate science, and offering practical ideas and tools to adopt solutions in their cities, such as purchasing renewable energy, advancing energy efficiency and establishing green building codes. Another key goal is to foster a deeper mayoral understanding of and engagement in the issue of an emissions cap being discussed on the national level. Boosting the mayors' collective voice in state and federal policymaking circles will help municipal needs, concerns and ideas gain traction in the national debate and subsequent public policy. Attendees will receive communication and presentation materials, access to Internet resources, case studies and policy reports, and participation in a national

network of local leaders working independently and collectively toward similar goals.

Redford's personal leadership on the issue dates back to his 1989 Greenhouse Glasnost international summit at Sundance which he co-convened with the Soviet Academy of Sciences, bringing together leading experts from a wide array of disciplines to address global warming.

"It's no secret that national leadership has been sorely lacking for too many years, but what is not so well known is how innovative and effective mayors have been during this same time period in advancing new ways of running their cities with climate change impacts in mind," said Redford.

"They have been very creative in their approach and out of this has come a unique brand of social change, particular to municipal leadership," he continued. "It is very impressive."

In keeping with the Sundance notion that creativity and art uniquely inform thinking around compelling issues of the day, this year's Summit will also feature two unique events that will serve to inspire communication about global warming among local communities. A spoken-word performance will feature the three winners of a nationwide Youth Speaks competition to express ideas, concerns, fears, and observations about global warming. In addition, mayors will be the first to screen the documentary "Fighting Goliath: Texas Coal Wars," a two-part film chronicling the efforts of a group of Texas mayors and citizens to stop the construction of 18 new coal-fired power plants in the state - facilities that would threaten the health of Texans and contribute significant amounts of new global warming gases to the atmosphere.

"Mayors are in a prime position to both inform the policy process at the state and federal levels and to implement those policies that are ultimately adopted. The importance of local governments as we attempt as a nation and as a global community to address global warming cannot be overstated," said Michelle Wyman, Executive Director of ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability.

For more information on the Summit and featured speakers, as well as the Sundance Preserve, visit www.sundance summit.org.

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ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability / <http://www.iclei.org>
ICLEI was founded in 1990 by local governments at the United Nations Headquarters in New York as the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI). ICLEI is a democratically governed membership association of cities, towns, counties, metropolitan governments, and local government associations. ICLEI provides its members with technical assistance, training, and information services to build capacity, share knowledge, and implement sustainable development programs.

Worldwide, ICLEI's Cities for Climate Protection® Campaign includes more than 800 local governments that are integrating climate change mitigation into their municipal programs and decision-making processes.

Sundance Preserve / www.sundancepreserve.org Founded by Robert Redford, the Sundance Preserve is a nonprofit organization dedicated to

environmental stewardship and developing creative strategies for social and cultural change. Set in the splendor of its own protected lands in Sundance, Utah, the Preserve endeavors to promote positive and powerful action by cultivating the exchange of innovative ideas among artists, scholars, scientists, and other leaders. Since the early 1980s, Sundance has hosted conferences on crucial issues of our time, including: resource development on Native American lands, urban air quality, global warming, western water issues, and the growing crisis regarding private sector support of the arts.

Salt Lake City, Utah / www.slcgov.com Under the leadership of Mayor Rocky Anderson, Salt Lake City implemented Salt Lake City Green, one of the most comprehensive municipal environmental programs in the nation. Salt Lake City has been a recognized leader in combating climate change. In 2005, the City achieved 105% of its goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions below the standard set by the Kyoto Protocol, five years early. The City strives to prevent sprawl development, automobile dependence, and deteriorating air quality by incorporating principles of smart growth in its transportation, housing, and downtown revitalization programs.

Situated at the base of the magnificent Wasatch Mountains, and just 30 minutes away from several designated wilderness areas, Salt Lake City is a diverse community, home to a wide array of arts, cultural, and outdoor recreational opportunities.