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MEMORANDUM TO SENATOR DOLE

DA: June 16, 1995  
FR: Alec Vachon *AV*  
RE: TY FROM VICTOR ASHE/OUTGOING PRESIDENT, U.S. CONFERENCE OF  
MAYORS

ATTACHED IS A THANK YOU LETTER FROM VICTOR ASHE, outgoing President of the U.S. Conference of Mayors, for your March 24th letter to Attorney General Reno asking for an extension of the deadline for curb cuts by cities. (Justice is now moving forward on issuing a notice of proposed rulemaking.) Although Ashe is personally unenthusiastic about ADA, his letter is positive on ADA. Ashe also raises the issue of the costs of paratransit required by ADA--I have been talking with the Mayors about this.

BTW, the new President of the U.S. Conference of Mayors, Norman Rice of Seattle, has the reputation of being very good on ADA.



# THE UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF MAYORS

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J. THOMAS COCHRAN

June 5, 1995

The Honorable Bob Dole  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
141 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Dole:

On behalf of The U.S. Conference of Mayors, I would like to record our support for the letters which you and Senators Harkin, Kennedy, Hatch and McCain have sent to the Attorney General on implementation of the Americans with Disabilities Act. The issues which your letters address -- the need for more time to make curb cuts and a simplified process for assuring that local building codes meet ADA requirements -- are real problems for our cities. We appreciate both your strong support for the ADA and your efforts to make its implementation more realistic for our cities. We look forward to the Attorney General's response to your letters.

There is another issue relating to implementation of the ADA which we must also bring to your attention, and that is the impact which its implementation is likely to have on public transportation systems. As it currently stands, compliance in early 1997 with ADA's paratransit requirements, when coupled with proposed reductions in federal operating assistance, threaten the future viability of many local transit systems and their ability to deliver services to persons with disabilities. We urge you to work with us to address this critical problem as well.

Thank you for your efforts on behalf of the nation's cities.

Sincerely yours,

Victor Ashe  
Mayor of Knoxville