

ANTONIO R. VILLARAIGOSA  
MAYOR

August 18, 2009

The Honorable Barack Obama  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

It is with great pleasure that I invite the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) to hold its 2011 Leaders' Conference in the City of Los Angeles. As Mayor, I know our great city can provide a vibrant forum in which to discuss important issues affecting APEC member economies. Our city's history, accomplishments, and future potential are embedded in our international character and linkages. Here in Los Angeles, we understand that our future—today more than ever—depends on rising to the challenge of global engagement.

Los Angeles is the ideal setting and the only choice for this significant conference. Our decided advantages include a dynamic economy, a richly diverse population, and strong international connections. Over 256 billion dollars worth of goods pass through the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, representing 43% of all cargo containers entering the US. LA serves as a pivotal hub linking the markets of Asia and Latin America to the US. 9 of our top 10 trading partners hail from the Pacific Rim and comprise roughly 75% of the \$350 billion in total trade through the Los Angeles Customs District—the nation's largest. Ostensibly, LA has very strong ties with the economies of the Asian Pacific.

The Los Angeles area also leads the nation as the most diverse city and it is a distinction we wear with pride. We are home to the largest Hispanic and Asian populations in the United States and 46% of our residents are foreign born. No other U.S. city can claim to hold the largest communities and residents hailing from APEC countries.

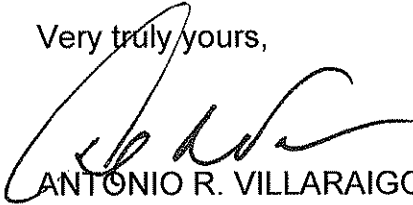


The Honorable Barack Obama  
August 18, 2009  
Page 2

Moreover, our great city has the experience and the resources necessary to accommodate high profile events such as the 2011 APEC Leaders' Conference. The LAPD today has become a national model for public safety with its sophisticated Counterterrorism Bureau and cutting edge emergency management and training.

Los Angeles is unquestionably the global city of the 21st century with exceptional talent and resources. Not only are we at the crossroads of global trade and commerce, but Los Angeles is also the world capital of entertainment, culture, and innovation, which I understand will be the theme for the 2011 Conference. As such, it is my hope that you will strongly consider the City of Los Angeles to host the 2011 APEC Leaders' Conference.

Very truly yours,



ANTONIO R. VILLARAIGOSA  
Mayor

ARV:clc

CC: Secretary Hillary Clinton, Secretary of State  
General James L. Jones, Jr., USMC (Ret.), U.S. National Security Advisor  
Dr. Lawrence Summers, Director of the National Economic Council  
Los Angeles Congressional Delegation