

National League of Cities

Tuesday, 3/13 @ 12:30pm

Marriot Wardman – Capitol Board Room

Exact Speaking Time: 12:55pm-1:05pm

***Meet and Greet at 12:30pm*

Length: 10 min.; NO Q&A

Introduction: Mayor Karen Freeman-Wilson, Gary, Indiana

Media: Open to the press

Opening: “I’m old enough to remember when the air over American cities was a lot dirtier

than it is now.” – P.J. O’Rourke

All good humor has some truth to it...

Bridge: The truth is, America’s air *is* a lot cleaner...

Celebrate Progress

Since 80’s – 65% reduction in six criteria pollutants under NAAQs program

- Reduction in nitrogen dioxide **concentrations:** Atlanta – 33%, Denver 9%, NYC 22%
- Thanks to technology: clean coal, natural gas

Civility/Partnership

Cities across the country have an important, but difficult responsibility

- Balancing jobs and the environment can be difficult
- Divisive issues: zoning, roads, bridges

Superfund/Brownfields are key infrastructure programs

- Only 40% achieved attainment
- EPA will work with you to achieve air quality standards attainment
- Water infrastructure
- Funding via grants, receiving funds, WIFA

Honoring the President’s Commitments

- POTUS said last week infrastructure programs are going to happen
- I’m a member of the President’s infrastructure principals team – met with him last week on the issue

Bridge: *Cities are where we raise our families and our children – leaders of our cities want clean air and water more than anyone.*

Closing: John Muir: “Everyone needs beauty as well as bread, places to play in and pray in.” – That’s what cities are supposed to be.