

Irving Mayor Invited to Speak About Water Resources to National Group

IRVING, TEXAS, *March 26, 2014* — The U.S. Conference of Mayors has invited Irving Mayor Beth Van Duyne to speak about water resource development to a gathering of mayors from across the nation during a meeting of the U.S. Mayors Water Council in Washington, D.C. on March 27.

Van Duyne will lead a discussion about a proposed resolution to the Conference of Mayors that, if adopted, would request Congress to make water issues a national priority.

“The looming water shortage is an urgent issue the federal government must begin to address. It’s beyond the capability of cities, regional organizations or states to fix or fund,” Van Duyne said. “I strongly support the initiative that requests the U.S. Conference of Mayors adopt a resolution calling for strategic water resource development in the United States. The time is now, and I’m eager to lead this discussion.”

Denton Mayor Mark A. Burroughs wrote the resolution that asks Congress to create legislation focused on water issues. The resolution calls for developing safe methods to recharge the nation’s freshwater sources and finding ways to remove excess silt from aquifers. The resolution also calls for developing new surface water reservoirs at the interstate level, developing environmentally safe methods to transfer water from basins, and finding innovative means to desalinate salt water and make it safe for consumption.

“We are approaching a crossroad that will affect all Americans,” Van Duyne said. “It’s critical that we find innovative solutions to our emerging water issues.”

The Mayors Water Council acts like a task force within the U.S. Conference of Mayors. The Water Council is focused on helping cities in their efforts to provide safe, affordable and adequate water and wastewater services. It provides a forum for local leaders to share information on best practices for water technology, management methods and financing of infrastructure.

About the City of Irving

Irving is the second city in the nation and the first in the State of Texas to receive the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award (2012) as well as the first municipality in Texas’ history to receive the Texas Award for Performance Excellence (2011). Irving is the 13th largest city in the state with 217,000 residents and is home to the largest office park in North Texas, where a number of Fortune 1000 companies are headquartered.

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