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PRESS RELEASE
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**Burlington Joins Local Officials From Across the Country Urging Supreme Court
to Order U.S. EPA to Reconsider Global Warming Decision**

September 1, 2006 -- Community Rights Counsel (CRC) filed an *amicus curiae* brief on August 31 on behalf of the U.S. Conference of Mayors, National Association of Counties, International Municipal Lawyers Association, American Planning Association, and the cities of Seattle, Albuquerque, Burlington, and San Francisco urging the U.S. Supreme Court to order the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to reconsider its 2003 decision not to regulate greenhouse gas emissions from motor vehicles.

The case, *Commonwealth of Massachusetts v. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency*, (No. 05-1120), was filed by some thirty parties, including twelve States, among them the State of Vermont, with a total population exceeding 100 million people.

The *amicus* brief provides the municipal perspective on the harm threatened by global warming. Local officials across the country know firsthand how important it is for our nation to aggressively combat global warming because they will be the first responders to the disasters global warming will bring, including hurricanes, storm surges, and deadly heat waves. Global warming also will result in more smog in our cities, sudden rainstorms that overwhelm municipal water supplies, droughts that deplete local reservoirs, and many other challenges for local communities.

The Burlington City Council approved a resolution on May 1, 2006 authorizing the city to join the *amicus curiae* brief.

“Burlington adds its voice to those of other local governments urging the federal government to recognize the present threat that vehicle emissions and global warming pose to people and the environment.” said Burlington Mayor Bob Kiss. “While the city has worked independently to

reduce emissions through initiatives such as the 10% Challenge, the EPA must also take action here.”

“The court needs to tell EPA to stop shirking its responsibilities to protect public health and welfare from global warming,” explained Timothy J. Dowling, CRC’s Chief Counsel. “There is an overwhelming scientific consensus that global warming is occurring, and the court should set EPA straight so the agency can fulfill its statutory duty to control greenhouse gases,” he added.

“Local governments across the country are responding to the challenge of global warming, but they can’t solve this problem on their own,” added Doug Kendall, CRC’s Executive Director. “Our brief gives voice to the frustration of local officials with federal inaction.”

A copy of the municipal amicus brief is available at:

<http://www.communityrights.org/globalwarming.pdf>