

# Sanders-Led Mayors' Group Condemns Cuts

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A group of New England mayors presided over by Burlington Mayor Bernard Sanders has condemned President Reagan's proposed cuts in domestic programs and urged the U.S. Congress to reject the plan.

The mayors, meeting in Boston Friday, adopted a resolution saying the cuts would harm "virtually every resident" of their cities and towns. The resolution urged Reagan and the Congress, "in the strongest possible terms, to set aside these unfair budget cut proposals and address the federal budget deficit crisis in a fair and equitable manner."

Excised from the draft of the resolution originally proposed by

Burlington were sections calling for cuts in military spending and an end to tax breaks for large corporations and the wealthy.

The mayors plan a larger meeting in March at which they hope to meet with the congressional delegations of the six New England states to urge opposition to the budget cuts, Sanders said. That meeting probably also will be held in Boston, he said.

The resolution cites planned cuts in federally funded programs which are "urgently needed by working people, the elderly and the poor," and pointed to proposed cuts in high-way programs, revenue sharing, Urban Development Action Grants, Community Development Block

Grants, small business programs, sewage construction grants, weatherization programs, tuition assistance, job training programs, housing for the elderly and low- and moderate-income people, as well as funding for police and fire protection.

The mayors agreed the cuts would result in substantially higher property taxes for local residents.

"At the end of the meeting," Sanders said, "of course the major question was, 'Where do we go from here?' ... Basically, I think what we all agreed upon was to keep our eye on every single New England congressman and senator and put as much pressure as we can on them in demanding that they oppose the budget cuts."

Although some mayors were sympathetic to Burlington's proposals for cuts in military spending and tax reform, the majority felt it would be better for the group not to express an opinion on those matters, Sanders said.

Other mayors attending the meeting were: William Collins, Norwalk, Conn.; Thirman Milner, Hartford, Conn.; James Donchess, Nashua, N.H.; Thom Serrani, Stamford, Conn.; Eugene Brune, Somerville, Mass.; Robert Shaw, Manchester, N.H.; John J. Leone, Bristol, Conn.; Biagio "Ben" DiLieta, New Haven, Conn.; Edward Bergin, Waterbury, Conn.; and John Burgess, who represented Mayor Henry Kinch of Pawtucket, R.I.