

August 2 2010

U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator:

We are writing to endorse S. 1619, the Livable Communities Act and to encourage you to vote for this important legislation being marked up this week in the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs. This bill helps support sustainable, community-driven planning, which is more critical than ever to help our country meet growing economic, energy, and environmental challenges.

Communities across the country want to grow smarter, in ways that will cut traffic congestion, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and gasoline consumption, protect rural areas and green space, revitalize Main Streets and urban centers, and create more affordable homes. The Livable Communities Act provides communities with the resources they need to plan for and create healthier, more affordable places to live, work, and raise families. It also encourages collaboration between communities and federal agencies, recognizing the importance of regional and cross-jurisdictional cooperation in meeting these kinds of goals.

S. 1619 proposes the following programs, administered by the Department of Housing and Urban Development to encourage more sustainable communities and regions:

- A **Comprehensive Planning Grant** program will provide funding for partnering communities to undertake planning that integrates transportation, housing, economic development, and environmental issues.
- A **Challenge Grant Program** will fund the implementation of projects, programs, or policies identified in these integrated regional plans.
- An **Interagency Council on Sustainable Communities** will bring together the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Department of Transportation, the Environmental Protection Agency, and other federal agencies, to coordinate federal sustainable development policies and research.
- The **Office of Sustainable Housing And Communities** within the Department of Housing and Urban Development will coordinate federal policies that foster sustainable development, lead sustainability initiatives, and provide technical assistance to communities seeking to plan for a more sustainable future.

Over the last several years, regions from Sacramento, California to Salt Lake City, Utah that have led sustainable planning efforts have seen the benefits of this approach. Their plans have helped spur cooperation towards a better future for these communities. We believe that more communities, large and small, should have the opportunity to create and work towards a more sustainable future and that S. 1619 provides that opportunity.

We strongly encourage you to vote yes on this important piece of legislation.

Sincerely,

**National Organizations**

America 2050  
America Bikes  
American Bus Association  
American Institute of Architects  
American Public Health Association  
American Public Transportation Association  
American Society of Landscape Architects  
Apollo Alliance  
Center for Neighborhood Technology  
CEO for Cities  
Congress for New Urbanism  
Conservation Law Foundation  
Enterprise Community Partners  
Environmental and Energy Study Institute  
Gettaround, Inc.  
International Downtown Association  
League of American Bicyclists  
League of Conservation Voters  
Local Government Commission  
National Association of City Transportation Officials  
National Association of County and City Health Officials  
National Complete Streets Coalition  
National Housing Trust  
National Resources Defense Council  
National Trust for Historic Preservation  
NCB Capital Impact  
New Starts Working Group  
Northeast-Midwest Institute  
Partnership for Prevention  
PolicyLink  
Prevention Institute  
Project for Public Spaces  
Rails to Trails Conservancy  
Reconnecting America  
Safe Routes to School National Partnership  
Smart Growth America  
Transportation for America  
Trust for America's Health

## **State and Local Organizations**

1,000 Friends of Connecticut (CT)  
1,000 Friends of Minnesota (MN)  
1,000 Friends of Oregon (OR)  
10,000 Friends of Pennsylvania (PA)  
Alaska Transportation Priorities Project (AK)  
Alliance for Metropolitan Stability (MN)  
American Planning Association – New Jersey Chapter (NJ)  
Anchorage Citizens Coalition (AK)  
Bloomington Transportation Options for People (IN)  
Bozeman Sustainability Group (MT)  
California WALKS (CA)  
Cascade Land Conservancy (WA)  
Citizens for Improved Transit (FL)  
City of Duluth Mayor Don Ness (MN)  
Cleveland Restoration Society (OH)  
Colorado Environmental Coalition (CO)  
Congress for the New Urbanism, Cascadia Chapter (OR and WA)  
Conservation Alabama Foundation (AL)  
Duluth Local Initiatives (MN)  
Empire State Future (NY)  
Fit City Duluth (MN)  
FRESC (CO)  
Fresh Energy (MN)  
Futurewise (WA)  
Greater Bridgeport Transit (CT)  
Greater Ohio Policy Center (OH)  
Greenbelt Alliance (CA)  
Grow Smart Rhode Island (RI)  
Growth and Justice (MN)  
Hennepin County, MN Commissioner Peter McLaughlin (MN)  
Houston Tomorrow (TX)  
Idaho Smart Growth (ID)  
ISAIAH (MN)  
Lewis & Clark City-County Health Department (MT)  
LOCUS Minnesota (MN)  
MA Smart Growth Alliance (MA)  
Metropolitan Planning Council (IL)  
Minnesota State Senator Scott Dibble (MN)  
Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy (MN)  
Missoula City-County Parks and Recreation Department (MT)  
Missoula Health Department (MT)  
New Jersey Audubon Society (NJ)  
New Jersey County Planners Association (NJ)

New Jersey Future (NJ)  
Opportunity Link, Inc. (MT)  
Partnership for Smarter Growth (VA)  
Regional Plan Association – New Jersey Chapter (NJ)  
Sacramento Area Bicycle Advocates (CA)  
San Luis Obispo County Bicycle Coalition (CA)  
Sierra Club – North Star Chapter (MN)  
Smart Growth Vermont (VT)  
Somerset County Planning Board (NJ)  
St. Paul Smart Trips (MN)  
Transit for Livable Communities (MN)  
Transportation Alternatives (NY)  
Tri-State Transportation Campaign (NY/NJ/CT)  
Twin Cities LISC (MN)  
Virginia League of Conservation Voters (VA)  
Vision Long Island (NY)  
Wake Up Washtenaw (MI)