



October 08, 2009

Senator Mark R. Warner
459A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Warner,

We write you as representatives of the affordable housing, sustainable, equitable development and philanthropic communities to urge you to consider signing on as a cosponsor of the Livable Communities Act of 2009, S.1619, introduced by Senator Christopher Dodd. This bill would authorize the creation of a new office at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to coordinate federal policies that foster sustainable development and administer HUD's sustainability initiatives, and would also provide \$4 billion to assist local governments in planning better and more affordable places where people can live.

A growing number of communities are looking for ways to support integrated regional planning efforts. While the need for affordable housing has received well-deserved attention through HUD, creating a systematic way to support a renewed focus on "affordable living" would take into account the combined burden of transportation and housing costs. For many working households, the goal of affordable living is becoming less attainable as fuel prices and trip lengths increase. We feel this legislation will help support local communities in urban, suburban and rural regions to provide more affordable choices for all Americans.

These grants will help communities of all sizes that are looking for innovative ways to create and preserve affordable housing, support transit-oriented development, improve public transportation, create walkable and bikeable main streets, foster economic and community development, and provide access to quality jobs and employment opportunities, and improve health and well being. The first grants would help communities develop comprehensive regional plans that incorporate transportation, housing, community and economic development and environmental needs. The majority of the funding, \$3.75 billion over three years, would fund a challenge grant program to implement projects identified in these comprehensive plans.

In addition to funding needs, many communities face regulatory challenges when trying to use existing federal programs to support affordable, sustainable communities. Because the bill also works to promote and implement interagency cooperation between the U.S. Department of Transportation, the Environmental Protection Agency, and HUD on these issues, programs like New Starts grants for major

transit capital investments and the Community Development Block Grant program could more efficiently assist communities in planning for and coordinating housing and transportation investments.

Senator Dodd's Livable Communities Act represents an enormous opportunity for Congress to help millions of Americans and their families live more affordably, and sets the stage for true cooperation and collaboration between federal agencies that will have a real impact on how effectively our communities can plan for the future. We urge you to support this important legislation.

Thank you for your consideration,

1000 Friends of Florida (FL)
1000 Friends of Minnesota (MN)
AAMU Community Development Corporation
Action! for Regional Equity (MA)
Alliance for Metropolitan Stability (MN)
Alliance to Develop Power (MA)
America 2050 (National)
American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging (National)
Asset Building Strategies (CA)
Atlanta Regional Health Forum (GA)
Bay Area Black United Fund (CA)
Bayou Interfaith Shared Community Organizing (LA)
B.R.A.C.E.S. (Benevolent Rural Alliance for Cultural and Environmental Strategies) (LA)
Benroe Housing Initiatives PC (LA)
BISCO (Bayou Interfaith Shared Community Organizing) (LA)
Boston Public Health Commission (MA)
Brooklyn Perinatal Network, Inc. (NY)
California Coalition for Rural Housing (CA)
California Housing Partnership (CA)
California Newsreel (CA)
California Pan-Ethnic Health Network (CA)
California Park & Recreation Society (CA)
California WALKS (CA)
Capital Area Alliance for the Homeless (LA)
CASA of Oregon (OR)
CDC Association of Greater Houston (TX)
Center for Civic Policy (NM)
Center for Fair Housing, Inc. (AL)
Center for Neighborhood Technology (IL)
Central Baltimore Partnership (MD)
Central Indiana Community Foundation (IN)
Chace Ruttenberg & Freedman LL(RI)
Champlain Housing Trust (VT)
Children's Defense Fund (National)
Churches Supporting Churches (LA)
Churches United in Ministry (MN)
Citizens' Housing and Planning Association (MA)
City of Denver (CO)
City of Lakewood (CO)

City of Portland(OR)
Citywide Tenant Association (LA)
Coalition for Economic Survival, Los Angeles (CA)
Coalition for Smarter Growth (DC-MD-VA)
Coalition on Housing and Homelessness in Ohio (OH)
Codman Neighborhood Development Corporation (MA)
Community Action Partnership (DC)
Community Development Council of Greater Memphis(TN)
Community-driven Policy Making (CA)
Community Economic Development Association of Michigan (MI)
Community Housing of Maine (ME)
Community Resources of Atlanta (GA)
Community Wellness Partnership of Pomona (CA)
Corporation for Supportive Housing (National)
Crossroads Urban Center (UT)
CulturePAC (LA)
Delaware Housing Coalition (DE)
District of Columbia, Office of Planning (Washington, D.C.)
Downtown Phoenix Community Development Corporation (AZ)
East Bay Asian Local Development Corporation (CA)
Energy Conservation Options (CA)
Enterprise Community Partners (National)
EpiVax, Inc (RI)
Equity Atlanta (GA)
Fit City Duluth (MN)
Florida Alliance of Community Development Corporations (FL)
FRESC (CO)
Gales Creek Insurance Services (OR)
Gamaliel New York State (NY)
Gamaliel Foundation (National)
Georgia Institute of Technology - Center for Quality Growth and Regional Development (GA)
Global Green New Orleans (LA)
Great Greenville Housing & Revitalization Assoc. Inc (MS)
Green for All (CA)
Greenbelt Alliance (CA)
Greenlining Institute (CA)
Guste Homes RMC (LA)
Habitat for Humanity International
Hampton Roads Committee of 200+ Men, Inc. (VA)
Hampton Roads Regional Equity Coalition (VA)
Housing & Community Development Network of New Jersey (NJ)
Housing Action Coalition (RI)
Housing Action Illinois (IL)
Housing Alliance of Pennsylvania (PA)
Housing Assistance Council (National)
Housing Our Communities (AZ)
Housing Preservation Project (VA)
Housing Resources, Inc (MI)
Indiana Association for Community Economic Development (IN)

Jerusalem Economic Development Corporation - Housing Div. Ministry (JEDC-HDM) of the First Pilgrims Baptist Church (LA)
Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity (OH)
Kurt Triplett, King County Executive (WA)
Lake Park East Tenants, Chicago (IL)
Latino Health Access (CA)
Lighthouse Communities, Inc (MI)
Live Oak Family Resource Center (CA)
Local Initiatives Support Corporation (National)
Louisiana Housing Alliance (LA)
Louisiana Housing Finance Agency (LA)
Maine Center for Economic Policy (ME)
Maine Rail Transit Coalition (ME)
Maryland Asset Building and Community Development Network (MD)
Massachusetts Association of Community Development Corporations (MA)
Measured Outcomes (National)
Metro St. Louis Coalition for Inclusion & Equity (MO)
Metro West Housing Solutions (CO)
Metropolitan Consortium of Community Developers (National)
Mid-America Regional Council (MO)
Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy (MN)
Minnesota Housing Partnership (MN)
Mississippi Coalition for Citizens with Disabilities (MS)
Mt. Airy USA (PA)
Mt. Pleasant Community Development Corporation (LA)
National Affordable Housing Trust (National)
National Alliance of Community Economic Development Associations (National)
National Alliance of Vietnamese American Service Agencies (CA)
National Association for State Community Services Programs (NASCSPP)
National Association Resident Management Corporations (LA)
National Catholic Social Justice Lobby (National)
National Fair Housing Alliance (National)
National Housing Conference (National)
National Housing Institute (National)
National Housing Law Project (National)
National Housing Trust (National)
National Jobs for All Coalition (National)
National Neighborworks Association (National)
National Vacant Properties Campaign (National)
Neighborhood Housing Services of Duluth (MN)
Network for Oregon Affordable Housing (OR)
NewCorp, Inc.(LA)
New Orleans Neighborhood Development Collaborative (LA)
Non-Profit Housing Association of Northern California (CA)
Norfolk Resident Organization (VA)
Northern Virginia Affordable Housing Alliance (VA)
OCCUR (CA)
Oma Community Action Committee Inc.(MS)
Partnership for Renewal in Southern and Central Maryland (MD)
Partnership for the Public's Health (National)

Philadelphia Association of Community Development Corporations (PA)
PolicyLink (National)
Political Action Commission (National)
Pratt Center for Community Development (NY)
Preservation of Affordable Housing (MA)
Prevention Institute (CA)
Providence Community Housing (RI)
Public Health Institute (CA)
Public Health Law & Policy (CA)
Reconnecting America (National)
Redwood Coast Rural Action (CA)
Regional Plan Association (NJ-NY-CT)
Regional Transportation Authority (IL)
Resources for Residents and Communities(GA)
Rodriquez & Associates (VA)
Rose Community Development (OR)
San Francisco Housing Development Corporation (CA)
Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (CA)
SEIU (National)
Selma Revitalization CDC (AL)
Sierra Club (National)
Silicon Valley Community Foundation (CA)
Smart Growth America (National)
Smart Growth Rhode Island (RI)
Southern Bancorp (National)
Southern California Association of Non-Profit Housing (CA)
State and Territorial Injury Prevention Directors Association (National)
Stop Wasting Abandoned Property (RI)
Sustainable Neighborhood Development Strategies, Inc.(GA)
Tenderloin Neighborhood Development Corporation (CA)
The Boston Foundation (MA)
The Broadmoor Development Corporation (LA)
The Coalition on Regional Equity/Sacramento Housing Alliance (CA)
The Housing Network of Rhode Island (RI)
The Institute for Human Centered Design (MA)
The National Transit Coalition (CA)
The Partnership for Working Families (WI)
TransForm (CA)
Transportation Alternatives (NY)
Transportation Equity Network (National)
Transportation for America (National)
Trust for America's Health (National)
U.S. Green Building Council (National)
United Job Creation Council (CA)
Unity Council (CA)
UNITY of Greater New Orleans (LA)
Universal Housing Development (AR)
Urban & Environmental Policy Institute at Occidental College (CA)
Urban Habitat (CA)
Urban Land Conservancy (CO)

Urban Land Institute Minnesota (MN)
Vanguard Enterprise, LLC (GA)
Vermont Affordable Housing Coalition (VT)
Washington Metropolitan Transit Authority (DC)