



Support the Livable Communities Act

The Livable Communities Act will support the creation of strong local economies by authorizing programs that support sustainable, community-driven planning and projects. S. 1621 will promote local leadership to develop innovative solutions that reflect the unique economic assets of communities to maximize returns on Federal investment in housing, transportation, and other infrastructure. The Livable Communities Act will spur private sector investment, cut red tape, and help federal agencies work more effectively, creating jobs at a time when we need it most.

The Livable Communities Act will encourage more sustainable communities and regions:

- The Livable Communities Act creates a **Comprehensive Planning Grant Program** to help partnering communities develop comprehensive regional plans that incorporate transportation, housing, community and economic development, and environmental needs.
- The Livable Communities Act creates a **Challenge Grant Program** to enable communities to implement projects to fulfill their comprehensive regional plans. These projects will help communities create and preserve affordable housing, improve transportation options, rehabilitate existing properties, and foster economic development.
- The Livable Communities Act authorizes the creation of the **Office of Sustainable Housing and Communities** within the Department of Housing and Urban Development to work to eliminate barriers to interagency cooperation by coordinating federal policies that foster sustainable development, lead sustainability initiatives, and provide technical assistance to communities seeking to plan for a more sustainable future.
- The Livable Communities Act creates **Loan Program to Support Transit Oriented Development** that will help local communities better leverage their transit systems to catalyze economic development and reduce the need for government support for the operations of the system. Through a competitive loan program, S. 1621 would support the development of specific, implementable TOD plans at the local or regional level.

“All of these efforts are based on a simple idea: That when you choose a home, you don’t just choose a home. You also choose schools for your children, transportation to work, and public safety. You choose a community and the choices available in that community. [. . .] It’s about doing what works— finding new, innovative ways to solve three or four problems with a single investment. [. . .] It’s about recognizing that if the challenges we face— whether they’re housing, transportation, or economic— don’t exist in isolation from one another – then government shouldn’t either.”

-Shaun Donovan, Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development

Creating jobs, saving tax dollars, and empowering local coordination

CREATING JOBS

Prosperity Follows Leveraged Investment

Greater coordination of public investment will provide direct support for immediate job creation and lay the groundwork for long-term resilience and prosperity by leveraging private sector investment.

- Attract and retain workers
- Allow businesses to draw new markets
- Strengthen neighborhoods through interconnected housing, transportation, and environmental efforts

Better coordination and alignment in internal operations at the federal level and with communities in the field, will mean greater economic growth on the ground.

TAX DOLLARS

Boost Economic Growth at the Local and Regional Level

Tax dollars that attract private investment and are stretched will make a significant impact on local economies.

This bill directs agencies to:

- Streamline requirements;
- Reduce redundancy; and to
- Eliminate red tape

Now is the time for smart investment. Programs that put taxpayers' dollars to good use restoring our economies, strengthening our communities and creating jobs are key to moving our economy and communities forward.

LOCAL COORDINATION

Foster Local Communities to Work Together

By bringing multiple stakeholders into the planning process both the Comprehensive Planning and the Community Challenge grant programs empower communities to:

- Develop a common mission for future economic prosperity; and
- Increased communication so infrastructure investments achieve optimal community impact

About Smart Growth America

Smart Growth America is the only national organization dedicated to researching, advocating for and leading coalitions to bring smart growth practices to more communities nationwide. From providing more sidewalks so people can walk to their town center to ensuring that more homes are built near public transit or productive farms remain a part of our communities, smart growth helps make sure that people across the nation can live in great neighborhoods. For additional information, please contact Katy Hartnett at Smart Growth America at khartnett@smartgrowthamerica.org or find us at www.SmartGrowthAmerica.org