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Commemorating the life and service of communities advocate Senator Frank Lautenberg

Washington DC – On the news of Senator Frank Lautenberg's (D-NJ) passing this morning, Smart Growth America President and CEO Geoff Anderson released the following statement.

It is with great sadness that we learned today about the passing of Senator Frank Lautenberg. Our condolences go out to his family, friends and colleagues.

Senator Lautenberg was a man exceptionally dedicated to his country. Investing in communities and improving the lives of Americans were always the driving forces for his work in the U.S. Senate. One of his enduring legacies will be his unwavering support for improving America's transportation networks. He was a determined advocate for our nation's freight and passenger rail system—especially for intercity travel and urban transit—and millions of Amtrak passengers today benefit from his efforts.

Senator Lautenberg was also an ally to communities everywhere trying to become more vibrant and healthier places in which to live and work. Just this past March, he introduced the Brownfields Utilization, Investment, and Local Development (BUILD) Act of 2013, a bill that would help municipalities around the country clean up and reuse contaminated land. And today, thousands of New Jersey residents are receiving assistance in rebuilding from Superstorm Sandy as part of a relief bill that he co-authored last year.

Senator Lautenberg will be missed dearly and his legacy as an advocate for healthy communities and multi-modal transportation is one that will endure. Today, the country not only lost a great Senator, but we lost a great American as well.

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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 to ensuring more homes are built near public transportation or that productive farms remain a part of our communities, smart growth helps make sure people across the nation can live in great neighborhoods. For additional information visit www.smartgrowthamerica.org.