

## PUT ON ORGANIZATION LETTERHEAD

Use this letter as a cover letter to send your organization's support of federal livability initiatives and opportunities. This provides the framework by which to begin a dialogue with a member of Congress, the White House or a federal agency. Make sure to enclose brief case studies that highlight efforts and successes in your region. Also offer a next step and a method of follow up.

INSERT DATE

ADDRESSEE INFORMATION

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

The INSERT ORGANIZATION NAME, representing INSERT DESCRIPTION, supports efforts to reinvigorate comprehensive regional planning and implementation through enactment of the "Livable Communities Act" (S.1619, H.R. 4690), the Sustainable Communities Partnership and other federal commitments. We are encouraged by this approach, and urge the advancement of any federal opportunity that provides incentives for regions and local governments to plan comprehensive future growth in a coordinated way that reduces congestion, generates good-paying jobs, meets our environmental and energy goals, protects rural areas and green space, revitalizes our Main Streets and urban centers, creates and preserves affordable housing, and makes our communities better places to live, work and raise families.

In our region, INSERT DESCRIPTION OF WHAT YOUR REGION IS DOING AND HOW YOU COULD USE ADDITIONAL RESOURCES.

Now is the time to engage our federal partners with a reinvigorated commitment to regional comprehensive planning through a livability program that crosses multiple federal agencies and patches together planning requirements to provide a more holistic approach to solving current challenges. INSERT ORGANIZATION NAME applauds legislative, regulatory and federal cooperative efforts to:

- reaffirm the federal role in regionalism;
- coordinate regional assistance programs;
- conduct federal interagency meetings;
- determine federal livability goals;
- include regions and local governments of all sizes and make ups;
- establish competitive comprehensive regional planning and implementation grants;
- promote regional and local cooperation and service sharing;
- improve data collection, research, evaluation and analysis;
- ensure land use/zoning requirements do not impede upon local decision-making; and,
- provide for transparency, accountability and replicability.

Thank you for your commitment to public service. As a member of the National Association of Regional Councils (NARC), we look forward to working with you and your colleagues in Congress, the Administration and appropriate federal agencies to determine how regions can be the leader in promoting the goals of the federal livability agenda, while helping restore economic prosperity in our nation's communities and foster partnerships and innovative practices that make each region a great place to live, play, work and invest.

I welcome a meeting with you to further discuss how our region is a leading actor in building livable communities. Please do not hesitate to contact me directly with questions at INSERT CONTACT INFORMATION.

Sincerely,

Cc: Mr. Fred Abousleman, Executive Director, National Association of Regional Councils