



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®

The Voice For Real Estate®

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June 9, 2009

The Honorable Norm Dicks
United States House of Representatives
Rayburn House Office Building, B-308
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Dicks,

On behalf of over 1.2 million members of the National Association of REALTORS® (NAR), I am writing to urge you to support an increase in funding for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Smart Growth program from \$3 million to \$6 million in the Interior Appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 2010. We believe that EPA's involvement in smart growth has brought a valuable voice of balance to the national discussion on land use, community growth, and environmental protection. Through this program, EPA has partnered with dozens of business, professional, and environmental organizations (including NAR) to foster better development approaches.

Our nation will face many critical challenges in the 21st century. We have a growing (and aging) population whose housing needs are changing, an imperative to conserve energy and natural resources, and increasing demands on our transportation system, to cite a few. As an association we are committed to Smart Growth principles because we believe this holds the key to preserving the quality of life of our communities in the decades ahead. We believe that Smart Growth represents an increasing market demand for real estate in walkable, mixed-use, transit-accessible communities.

EPA's market-based approach has been valuable in educating communities on how to remove regulatory barriers to Smart Growth. We believe EPA's Smart Growth program represents a promising non-regulatory approach to environmental protection and enhancement that should be continued and expanded. We urge you, therefore, to make this modest investment now for a better future for America's communities.

Sincerely,

Charles McMillan, CIPS, GRI
2009 President, National Association of REALTORS®