



ILLINOIS METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

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February 26, 2010

United States Senator Dick Durbin
Assistant Majority Leader
309 Hart Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Illinois Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Council, representing thirteen MPOs statewide, supports efforts to reinvigorate comprehensive regional planning and implementation through enactment of the "Livable Communities Act of 2009" (S.1619). 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.

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. The Illinois MPO Advisory Council applauds S.1619's 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.

Please do not hesitate to contact me directly with questions at 217.819.4129.

Sincerely,

Cameron Moore
Chairman

cc: The Honorable Christopher Dodd, Chairman, U.S. Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee
Mr. Fred Abousleman, Executive Director, National Association of Regional Councils

Chairman, Cameron Moore (CUATS), Vice Chair, Randy Blankenhorn (CMAP); Secretary/Treasurer, Terry Kohlbus (PPUATS)

Bi-State Regional Planning Commission
Champaign Urban Area Transportation Study
Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning
Danville Area Transportation Study
Decatur Area Transportation Study

DeKalb-Sycamore Transportation Study
East-West Gateway Council of Governments
Kankakee Area Transportation Study
McLean County Regional Planning Commission

Peoria/Pekin Urbanized Area Transportation Study
Rockford Metropolitan Agency for Planning
Springfield Area Transportation Study
Stateline Area Transportation Study