

Date

The Honorable First & Last Name

Address

Address

Re: Green Communities Act

Dear Representative [REDACTED]:

I am writing to urge you to co-sponsor the Green Communities Act (H.R. 2222). We applaud the goal of this bill to provide new effective, low cost strategies that will grow their economies. In particular, **ORGANIZATION** supports awarding grants for the implementation of green infrastructure as one of the most effective ways to improve quality of life, attract new business, and improve the general environment.

**ONE OR TWO OF THE FOLLOWING TALKING POINTS:**

**a. Smart Growth**

Business leaders recognize that smart growth provides quality of life, market opportunities, and stable investments. Because trees enhance economic stability by attracting businesses and tourists, communities are better designing commercial land use to include multi-modal mobility. Some communities are redeveloping small mall zones based on “complete street” principles, expanding plantings, and redeveloping the character of the place.

**b. Neighborhood Stabilization**

Property values of homes with trees in the landscape are 5-20% higher than equivalent properties without trees, and even newly landscape trees in the front yard can increase home sales prices by 1%. If you are renting, you might like to know that properties along tree-lined streets rent for higher prices and with less turnover.

**c. Boost Office Rental Rates and Worker Productivity**

Social researchers have found that individuals prefer buildings with good landscaping and shade provided by trees. In fact, commercial office properties having quality landscapes rent for 7% higher rates. And when psychologists analyzed the findings, they found positioning desk workers to have a view of urban greenery results in greater job productivity and satisfaction and reduced absenteeism.

**d. Customer Experience**

Consumers say that green communities are more appealing places to shop, facilitate positive merchant interactions, and often have higher product quality. Whether tree-lined streets or pocket parks (the latter being preferable to consumers), trees send the signal that businesses care, which ultimately helps businesses attract shoppers and pay 8-11% more for goods and services.

**e. Affordable Housing**

Sustainable affordable homes are accessible to employment and educational opportunities, and ones that people of limited means can afford to own, operate, and maintain over the long-term. They create stable, strong communities and are efficiently designed and built to minimize impact, reduce utility costs, and create healthy environments that improve air quality, have access to recreational opportunities, and are safe.

**ORGANIZATION** believes that the Green Communities Act (H.R. 2222) is an excellent method for stabilizing neighborhoods and growing the local economy. We urge you to co-sponsor this bill.

Sincerely,

NAME

TITLE

ORGANIZATION