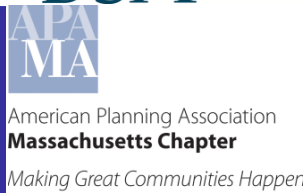


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American Farmland Trust



July 24, 2013

Speaker of the House Robert DeLeo

State House Room 356
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Mr. Speaker,

As advocates for smart growth, sound planning, and public health, we ask for your assistance in advancing H.1859, an Act Promoting the Planning and Development of Sustainable Communities. Sponsored by Senator Wolf and Representative Kulik, this important legislation seeks to update our antiquated planning and zoning laws in order to encourage new jobs and housing, strong community planning and public health, and natural resource protection. These common sense reforms are important for maintaining a vibrant and competitive Commonwealth.

The legislation takes a balanced approach that introduces more certainty and predictability for developers and property owners, while also granting cities and towns the tools necessary to shape the future of their communities. It includes incentives intended to produce better regional land use outcomes – jobs and homes in places where people already live and work.

Our organizations support this legislation as the framework for zoning reform. We respectfully request your support for H. 1859. Additional information regarding the bill accompanies this letter.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Susan Affleck-Childs, Planning and Economic Development Coordinator, Town of Medway
(for identification purposes only)

Doug Albertson, Town Planner, Town of Belchertown

Jessica Allan, AICP, Planning Director, City of Easthampton

Adam Baacke, Assistant City Manager, City of Lowell

Roland Bartl AICP, Planning Director, Town of Acton

Edward O. Becker, Executive Director, Essex County Greenbelt Association

Eugene B. Benson, Executive Director, Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions

Nancy Bonell and David Weed, Voices for a Healthy Southcoast

Timothy W. Brennan, Executive Director, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission

Jennifer Burke, Planning Director, Town of Hudson

Russell J. Burke, AICP, Town of Groton Planning Board Member

Michael Cahill, Alliance of Massachusetts YMCAs

Elliott Carr, Co-Chair, Cape Cod Business Roundtable

Thomas Callahan, Executive Director, Massachusetts Affordable Housing Association

Michelle Ciccolo, Director of Community Development, Town of Hudson

Douglas C. Clark, Director of Community Development, City of Pittsfield

Brenda Clement, Executive Director, Citizens Housing and Planning Association

Chris Coffin, New England Director, American Farmland Trust

Michelle Collette, Land Use Director/Town Planner, Town of Groton

Jessica Collins, Live Well Springfield/Partners for a Healthier Community

Christopher Di Iorio, Town Planner, Town of Norwell

Dennis DiZoglio, Executive Director, Merrimack Valley Planning Commission

Marc Draisen, Executive Director, Metropolitan Area Planning Council
 Kristina Egan, Director, Transportation for Massachusetts
 Barbara Erickson, President, The Trustees of Reservations
 Wayne Feiden, FAICP, Director of Planning and Sustainability, City of Northampton
 Dr. Barbara Ferrer, Boston Public Health Commission
 Glenn Garber, Bedford Planning Director, Town of Bedford
 Mary Gianetti, Fun n' FITchburg/Montachusett Opportunity Council
 Nancy Goodman, Vice President for Policy, Environmental League of Massachusetts
 Charleen Greenhalgh, Assistant Town Administrator/Planner, Town of Truro
 (for identification purposes)
 Richard J. Gulick, Board Member, Town of Chatham Planning Board
 Candace Havens, Director of Planning and Development, City of Newton
 Paul Halkiotis, AICP, Town Planner, Town of Marshfield
 Phil Herr, Adjunct Professor, MIT Department of Urban Studies & Planning (Retired)
 Karen Heymann, Legislative Director, Mass Audubon
 Angus Jennings, AICP, Immediate Past President, Massachusetts Association of Planning Directors
 Meghan C. Jop, AICP, Planning Director, Town of Wellesley
 Don Keeran, Assistant Director, Association to Preserve Cape Cod
 Joe Kriesberg, President, Massachusetts Association of Community Development Corporations
 Jeff Lacy, AICP, Planning Board, Town of Shutesbury
 Wendy Landman, Executive Director, WalkBoston
 Elaine Lazarus, Director of Land Use, Planning and Permitting, Town of Hopkinton
 Danny LeBlanc, CEO, Somerville Community Corporation
 Andre Leroux, Executive Director, Massachusetts Smart Growth Alliance
 Rev. Bill Loesch, BOLD Teens/Codman Square Neighborhood Council
 Stephen Long, Director of Government Relations, The Nature Conservancy in Massachusetts
 Nat Lowell, Chair of the Planning Commission, Town of Nantucket
 Peter Lowitt, FAICP, Director, Devens Enterprise Commission
 Jill M. Maclean, City Planner, City of New Bedford
 Steve Magoon, Director, Community Development and Planning, Town of Watertown
 (for identification purposes)
 Alan McClennen, Jr., Co-Chair, Cape Cod Business Roundtable
 Heather McMann, Groundwork Lawrence
 Mary Jo Meisner, Commonwealth Housing Task Force
 Steve Miller, Livable Streets Alliance
 John Nunnari, Executive Director, American Institute of Architects – Massachusetts
 James O'Connell, AICP, Chair, Zoning Reform Working Group
 Stephanie Patton, Pioneering Healthier Communities- Stoughton
 Allyson Perron, American Heart/Stroke Association
 Ed Pikula, President, Massachusetts Municipal Lawyers Association
 Daphne Politis, President, Massachusetts Association of Consulting Planners
 Laura Porter, Holyoke Food and Fitness
 Russell Preston, President, Congress for a New Urbanism, New England Chapter
 George Proakis AICP, Director of Planning, City of Somerville
 Sarah Raposa, AICP, Town Planner, Town of Medfield
 Marcia Rasmussen, Director, Concord Planning & Land Management, Town of Concord
 Susan Reid, Vice President and Director, CLF Massachusetts
 Marc Resnick, AICP, Brockton Redevelopment Authority, and President, Massachusetts
 Association of Planning Directors
 Maddie Ribble, Massachusetts Public Health Association
 Steve Ridini and Judi Foley, Health Resources in Action
 Bob Ritchie, Zoning Reform Representative, Massachusetts Municipal Lawyers Association
 Dr. Anna Rosenquist, Massachusetts Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

Brian Rosman, Health Care For All
Cheryl Sbarra, Massachusetts Association of Health Boards
Felipe Schwarz, AICP, President, American Planning Association – Massachusetts Chapter
Liz Sheehan-Castro, Worcester Food and Active Living Policy Council
Francey Slater, Greater Lowell Health Alliance
Steve Smith, Executive Director, Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development
District (for identification purposes)
David Spitz, Harwich Town Planner
Richard Tillburg, AICP, Richard Tillburg Consulting
Jonathan Tucker, Planning Director, Amherst Planning Department
Eric Twarog, AICP, Director of Planning and Development, Town of Greenfield
Andrew V. Vorce, AICP, Director of Planning, Nantucket Planning and Economic Development
Commission
Elizabeth Ware, Town Planner, Town of Winchester
Eric White, Executive Director, Boston Society of Architects
Ralph R. Willmer, FAICP, Senior Planner/Project Manager, VHB (identification purposes only)
Jim Wilusz, Be Well Berkshires
Robert L. Zimmerman, Jr., Executive Director, Charles River Watershed Association

Boards that have voted to endorse House Bill 1859:

Bedford Planning Board, Jeffrey M. Cohen, Chair
Belchertown Planning Board
Brewster Planning Board, William Hoag, Chair
Chatham Planning Board, Peter K. Cocolis, Chair
Orleans Planning Board, Chet Crabtree, Chair
Plymouth Planning Board, Tom McAlduff, Chair
Truro Planning Board, Karen Snow, Chair