



## COLORADO LEADS THE WAY ON LIVABLE COMMUNITIES

FROM LIGHT RAIL IN CHARLOTTE TO new green buildings in Sacramento, across the nation, local governments are cooperating now more than ever before between regions and departments to implement sustainable development practices. But this is nothing new to Colorado. For more than a decade, our cities and towns have been leading the way in long-term regional planning for how we live, work, and play. This kind of continued cooperation and long-term planning is a national priority for the Obama administration and for Congress.

In February, I introduced the Livable Communities Act of 2010 in the House of Representatives, as the companion bill to S. 1619, introduced by Sen. Chris Dodd, D-Conn. This legislation promotes the economic benefits of sustainable development, community planning, and multimodal transportation centers to our neighborhoods. And, as Colorado continues to grow, the need for smart policies, funding opportunities, and federal, state, and local government collaboration is more important than ever.

You understand the importance of smart and sustainable growth policies if you have ever been in bumper-to-bumper traffic in downtown Golden on a summer afternoon, crowded off the road on your

bike, or forced to drive to the grocery store because there is no public transit option.

The Livable Communities Act will help revitalize main street in rural and more metropolitan areas by promoting economic development and job growth in our neighborhoods. It will help communities cut traffic congestion, promote energy-efficient and affordable housing, redevelop brownfields, and protect open spaces. This kind of planning creates healthier, more convenient, and affordable places to live, work, and raise families.

This bill provides the tools for local, state, and federal organizations to create infrastructure for how people live, work, and play. No longer can we plan around highways and cul-de-sacs — we have to plan with bike paths, parks, and sidewalks.

The Livable Communities Act will establish a grant program administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to help local governments plan for and create more affordable communities. A Challenge Grant Program would also be created to assist cities and regions in implementing long-term planning. It will establish an Office of Sustainable Housing and

Communities at HUD to administer and oversee the Livable Communities grant programs. It also will establish a federal Interagency Council on Sustainable Communities to include representatives from HUD, the Department of Transportation, the Environmental Protection Agency, and other federal agencies to coordinate federal sustainable development policies.

I am proud the Livable Communities Act has the support of many groups and organizations, including: the Colorado Municipal League, American Institute of Architects, Enterprise Community Partners, National Association of Counties, National Association of Realtors, National Association of Regional Councils, U.S. Green Building Council, Colorado Environmental Coalition, and the Denver Regional Council of Governments.

I look forward to working with Congress and local community groups and leaders to move this important legislation forward. As Coloradans, you know how important these policies are for promoting economic development, creating jobs, and establishing sustainable communities to live and work.