

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 26, 2013

The Honorable Jack Reed
Chairman
Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior,
Environment, and Related Agencies
Senate Appropriations Committee
131 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior,
Environment, and Related Agencies
Senate Appropriations Committee
125 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Reed and Ranking Member Murkowski:

As you begin to consider the fiscal year 2014 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies appropriations, we urge you to support the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) smart growth program, which helps communities across the country to grow in the ways that expand economic opportunities and enhance the places people want to live. The EPA smart growth program is helping communities across America rebuild their local economies and improve their fiscal stability.

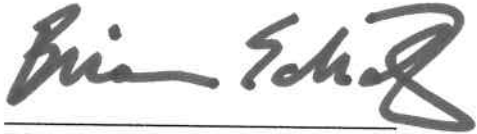
Specifically, we support the President's request of \$10.4 million for the smart growth program requested in the fiscal year 2014 budget. With this funding the EPA will be able to provide direct technical assistance for smart growth planning in cities, towns, and suburbs across the country. When communities plan their future transportation, housing, water, and sewer infrastructure and public services strategically, they save money and so does the federal government.

The EPA smart growth program works with local, state, and regional decision makers by providing technical expertise and resources to help communities grow their economies, protect the environment and public health, and improve their existing infrastructure. As more communities face increasing development challenges, the EPA's smart growth program provides a valuable service that is voluntary and market-driven to strengthen and revitalize towns, cities, and localities.

For example, Kimberly, Idaho received a grant from the EPA in 2012 to create a vibrant and attractive town center, plan for a more efficient transportation flow and make city streets safe for all users. Through this technical assistance Kimberly, Idaho is focused on supporting existing businesses by providing safe and inviting settings for commercial development that are close to housing and schools. With the help of the EPA technical assistance they were able to have a conversation with stakeholders about the community in its entirety rather than just focusing on the impact of growth on their specific business or property.

Again, we ask you to support the EPA smart growth program in the FY2014 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies appropriations bill.

Sincerely,



BRIAN SCHATZ
United States Senator



MARY LANDRIEU
United States Senator



PATRICK LEAHY
United States Senator



ROBERT MENENDEZ
United States Senator



FRANK R. LAUTENBERG
United States Senator



TAMMY BALDWIN
United States Senator



RICHARD BLUMENTHAL
United States Senator



BERNIE SANDERS
United States Senator



MARTIN HEINRICH
United States Senator



THOMAS CARPER
United States Senator



ANGUS S. KING, JR.
United States Senator



RICHARD DURBIN
United States Senator



SHELDON WHITEHOUSE
United States Senator



CARL LEVIN
United States Senator



KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND
United States Senator



MAZIE K. HIRONO
United States Senator