



## Zoning for Healthy Community Design

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### Template Letter to Legislators: The Comprehensive Land Use Reform and Partnership Act (CLURPA)

[Place on Your Organization's Letterhead]

[Date]

Representative/Senator [Name]  
State House, Room [Number]  
Boston, MA 02133

#### **RE: Request to support S1019, The Comprehensive Land Use Reform and Partnership Act (CLURPA)**

Dear Representative/Senator [Last name]:

I am writing to ask you to sign on as a supporter of Senate Bill 1019, The Comprehensive Land Use Reform and Partnership Act (CLURPA). The aim of CLURPA is to update antiquated planning and zoning laws here in Massachusetts, where we have some of the most outdated statutes in the nation.

At *[your organization's name]*, our mission is to *[state mission]*. CLURPA is important to our mission because *[insert a brief explanation about why you care about this bill]*.

In Massachusetts, old zoning codes have too often promoted sprawl, pollution, and stunted economic development, and they have at times created barriers to healthy land uses such as grocery stores and affordable housing. Consider that:

- The American Planning Association concluded that Massachusetts has some of the weakest and most outdated land-use laws in the nation.
- Massachusetts is ranked near the bottom – 47<sup>th</sup> in the nation – in availability of affordable housing.
- The Food Trust reported that Massachusetts has fewer supermarkets per capita than almost any other state.
- Massachusetts has lost a significant amount of farmland, forests, and natural areas to sprawl.
- Our development patterns have led to long commutes and high transportation and housing costs, which stifle economic competitiveness.

Updated and improved planning and zoning laws can help us overcome these barriers to high quality of life and good public health.

Under CLURPA, *[your town/city/region]* would have the necessary tools to promote a vibrant and healthy community. *[Insert any specific local examples or goals, such as a. ensure local zoning promotes public health and environmental protection; b. foster safer streets for bikers and pedestrians; c. reform Approval Not Required that has undermined local control of new subdivisions and promoted sprawl; d. speed up permitting for community-friendly development projects; e. incorporate affordable housing options into community design; f. increase access to healthy food stores, etc.].*

*[Include any additional notes about how CLURPA will benefit your community.]*

We hope you will consider joining the many legislators and community leaders who have already expressed support for CLURPA.

I will be in touch with you shortly to follow up on this request. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at *[phone and email]*.

Sincerely,

Name

Title



Learn more and get involved!

For more information, contact Maddie Ribble: 617-524-6696 x111 or [mribble@mphaweb.org](mailto:mribble@mphaweb.org)