

Comprehensive Land Use Reform and Partnership Act (CLURPA)

Senate Bill 1019, by Sen. Jamie Eldridge

Written Testimony Submitted by:
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The Holyoke Food & Fitness Policy Council has been implementing a Community Action Plan that focuses on promoting healthier lifestyles by encouraging walking and biking in the city of Holyoke. We have been encouraging the city to create and maintain green spaces that residents can enjoy. The success of our work has been limited due to the lack of resources available to the city to expand these much needed infrastructure.

For almost two years, the Holyoke Food & Fitness Policy Council has been in talks with city planners to consider building sidewalks where they are needed and to paint more bike lanes. The city planners have been very helpful in supporting our efforts but there is much more that needs to be done for Holyoke to be a pedestrian/bike friendly city.

The Holyoke Food & Fitness Policy Council fully supports the proposed legislation at the State Wide level because it is aligned with the work we are doing at a local level. It gives our cities and towns the tools and support that are much needed to make our communities more bike and pedestrian friendly, which at the same time gets people more physically active and this has positive health benefits. The Holyoke Food & Fitness Policy Council strongly supports the proposed legislation and hopes that its benefits to our Commonwealth are seriously taken in to account.