

SAMPLE LETTER. PLEASE MODIFY AS NEEDED AND MAIL TO YOUR STATE LEGISLATORS, SENATORS AND OTHER GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.

Thank you for your service to the Commonwealth. I, like many of my fellow citizens understand the dire situation of our current fiscal condition. We know how challenging last year's budget process was and how hard it will be to justify every penny in the current proposed budget. Equipped with this knowledge, I humbly ask you to consider restoration of funding for the Land Use Planning and Technical Assistance Program (LUPTAP) of the Department of Community and Economic Development to the FY 2008-2009 level of \$4,173,000.

The LUPTAP Program is the only program that matches local government resources with state funds to develop comprehensive land use and transportation plans, multi-municipal plans and the critical updates necessary to address emerging patterns of growth or stagnation. Equally important, it ensures professional assistance to communities to accomplish the goal of improving the economy and quality of life. Citizens and governing bodies are empowered to work collaboratively to protect the character of their community and establish a plan of action for their future. The outcomes of this program affect every single resident of the Commonwealth.

The value of good long term decision-making through sound land use planning cannot be overstated. It directs and stimulates millions of dollars of federal, state and local government funds and revenue while creating a positive environment for private sector investment. Now is the time to ensure the preservation of thriving communities and the restoration of deteriorating ones to leverage Pennsylvania's ability to remain economically competitive in the nation and the world.

The Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Planning Association is committed to working toward LUPTAP restoration. We have built a coalition of like-minded entities including the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors (PSATS), Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs (PSAB) and County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania (CCAP), as well as 10,000 Friends of Pennsylvania and the *Pennsylvania Works!* Campaign. The alliance is continuing to grow and there will surely be more organizations on board by the time you receive this letter.

Attached please find three case studies highlighting the benefit of the LUPTAP program around the Commonwealth.

Please note that Representative Robert L. Freeman, of the 136th Legislative District and Chair of the House Local Government Committee has shared a letter with you to become a cosigner of legislation to increase funding for the LUPTAP program. I trust you will consider becoming a part of his effort.

I am available to meet personally with you or your staff to further discuss the important function of this program and to address any questions or concerns you may have. I am also willing and open to testifying about this issue before any committee or sub-committee. Please feel free to call me at **YOUR PHONE** or email **YOUR EMAIL**.