

Letter of Support on Zoning Reform from Municipal Officials

June 8, 2016

Senate President Stan Rosenberg
State House Room 332
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Senate President Rosenberg;

As municipal leaders across the Commonwealth, we write to express our support for S. 2311, *An Act Promoting Housing and Sustainable Development*.

This important legislation will provide overdue updates to our antiquated planning and zoning laws while giving cities and towns opportunities to stimulate housing production. The legislation takes a balanced approach that introduces more certainty and predictability for developers and property owners, while also giving cities and towns the tools necessary to meet the needs of today and shape the future of our communities.

We are building fewer than half of the homes that we need annually to meet our current statewide needs and prevent job loss to other states. Our restrictive and outdated zoning laws are partly to blame. This bill doesn't just help us update outdated policies, it also helps us to ensure that we can remain economically competitive.

We urge you to take this opportunity to advance S. 2311 and pass meaningful zoning reform and housing production legislation.

Sincerely,

Kimberley Driscoll
Mayor of Salem

Edward Bettencourt, Jr,
Mayor of Peabody

Joseph Curtatone
Mayor of Somerville

Michael Cahill
Mayor of Beverly

Setti Warren
Mayor of Newton

Peter Lowitt
Director, Devens Enterprise Commission

Thomas Ambrosino
City Manager, Chelsea

Steve Sadwick
Community Development Director, Tewksbury

Adam Chapdelaine
Town Manager, Arlington

Kristen Kassner
Planning Director, Burlington

Thomas Younger
Town Administrator, Swampscott

Jeff Nutting
Town Administrator, Franklin

Michelle Ciccolo
Lexington Board of Selectmen

Jessica Allan
City Planner, Easthampton

James McKenna
Town Manager, Winthrop

Doug Albertson
Town Planner, Belchertown

Bedford Planning Board