



July 27, 2010

Senator Bill Nelson
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C.

Dear Senator Nelson:

BikeWalkLee is a community coalition raising public awareness and advocating for complete streets in Lee County, FL. Our coalition is working in partnership with other organizations to enhance the ability of communities all across Southwest Florida to develop and implement cross-cutting strategies for livable, walkable & bikeable communities. We are writing to express strong support for *The Livable Communities Act* (S. 1619). We ask you, Senator Nelson, to support S. 1619 as well.

The Livable Communities Act provides new incentives and resources for local leaders to craft and implement comprehensive regional sustainable development strategies. The legislation is a major step forward in recognizing that pressing community issues such as economic competitiveness, environmental stewardship, housing affordability and access, transportation mobility and quality of place require comprehensive regional solutions.

The planning and implementation resources outlined in *The Livable Communities Act* would empower communities with the tools to preserve their most valued assets and meet the challenges related to growth, mobility, and economic competitiveness. Throughout the country, many communities have begun to take up this challenge and have proactively established a variety of local sustainable development initiatives. The programs and technical assistance authorized by *The Livable Communities Act* would help many more communities in Florida and across the country carry out such initiatives.

BikeWalkLee is a strong supporter of the *Complete Streets Act* and applauds your co-sponsorship of this important legislation. The *Livable Communities Act* (S. 1619) is consistent with and complements the *Complete Streets Act*. We, therefore, urge you to extend your support to include S. 1619. Thank you for considering our views.

Sincerely,
Darla Letourneau
On behalf of the Steering Group
BikeWalkLee