



THE VICE PRESIDENT
WASHINGTON

May 4, 1999

Mr. Orville Simpson, II
3417 Erie Ave, Apt. 406
Cincinnati, Ohio 45208-1753

Dear Mr. Simpson:

Thank you for writing to me on the important topic of urban sprawl and livable communities. This is an issue of particular interest to me, and I appreciate hearing your thoughts and ideas.

The solution to the urban sprawl problem lies in united community efforts, like those already underway across the country. Cities are coming together to invest in mass transit alternatives to driving; turn dilapidated and abandoned structures into family attractions such as aquariums, magnet schools, and revitalized factories; and create "smart growth" curbs to unbridled sprawl. The federal government, too, should and can be mindful of "livability" issues in its allocation of buildings and development and in partnerships with states and local governments.

President Clinton and I have worked hard to make the federal government part of the solution. We are cleaning up toxic waste dumps and replacing them with parks, new businesses, and homes. Our community empowerment strategy is bringing billions of dollars in private investment to improve central cities. We have passed targeted tax cuts for families, small businesses, and communities. We are giving communities unprecedented local control to build infrastructure, putting 100,000 "community policing" officers on the streets to get to know the neighborhood, and continuing our fight to preserve and protect the environment from pollution and overdevelopment. We have launched initiatives that protect farmland from development for generations and provide better mortgage options to encourage growth near, and use of, mass transit. We are taking new steps to ease traffic congestion through investments in alternatives to building more clogged roadway so parents can spend more time with their children and less time stuck behind a steering wheel.

The President and I firmly believe that places matter to people and that livable communities, comfortable suburbs, and vibrant cities, connected by green spaces rather than just bulldozed plots and utilitarian roads, will have an immeasurable benefit for our environment and our society. Please be assured that we will work tirelessly toward this goal.