



THE CITY OF
West Des Moines®

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Parks and Recreation

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February 19, 2009

Ms. Angela Dye, President
American Society of Landscape Architects
636 Eye Street NW
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Ms. Dye:

I am writing this letter to support Mr. John Norquist nomination as an Honorary Member of the American Society of Landscape Architects. Through his role as the Mayor of Milwaukee, a founding and continuous board member of the Congress for New Urbanism (CNU), and the CNU's current President, he has significantly advanced the art and practice of urban design over the last 20 years.

As mayor of Milwaukee from 1988 to 2004, Mr. Norquist removed a .8 mile-long section of elevated freeway and made way for a boulevard in its place; oversaw the revision of the City's zoning code and encouraged more cohesive and pedestrian-friendly neighborhoods, leading to a downtown housing boom and \$250 million in new infill development in the central city; and spearheaded the development of the City's 3.1 mile Riverwalk. In 2001, the *Utne Reader* said "Norquist understands what makes cities work as well as anyone."

Mr. Norquist is the author of *The Wealth of Cities* and has taught courses in urban planning and development at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee School of Architecture, the University of Chicago and Marquette University. In his book, he argued that "physical properties — scale, proximity, and diversity — are their chief advantage ... As cities reduce crime and taxes, the physical appeal of the urban form becomes apparent and attractive to potential residents and businesses." In 1998, *Governing* magazine chose him as Public Official of the Year.

John Norquist promotes New Urbanism as an alternative to sprawl and antidote to its social and environmental problems. His advocacy of good physical design as a solution to pressing urban problems makes him an ideal candidate for an Honorary Member of the American Society of Landscape Architects.

Sincerely yours,

Gary D. Scott, Director
President-Elect, ASLA