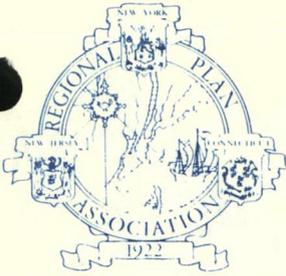


# NEW JERSEY COMMITTEE

## Regional Plan Association

... a research and planning agency supported by voluntary membership to promote the coordinated development of the New York-New Jersey-Connecticut Metropolitan Region.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### REGIONAL PLAN APPEALS FOR NEW JERSEY STATE PLANNING COMMISSION

Regional Plan Association's New Jersey Committee today issued a resolution urging prompt enactment of Senate Bill 1464, establishing a new State Planning Commission and a new Office of State Planning.

New Jersey Committee Chairman Robert V. Van Fossan stated for the Committee that "since last summer when the Division of State and Regional Planning was disbanded, New Jersey has been without any agency to ensure that State and local planning decisions are compatible.

"We have individual plans for State water supply, solid waste, highways and other public facilities but no agency with a framework to fit the plans together.

"Last year's Mt. Laurel II decision called for an update of the State Plan by 1985, but no agency is doing anything in that regard.

"When local governments need technical planning advice, they turn to Trenton, but no one is there to help right now.

"The Legislature now has before it a useful bill establishing a new State Planning Commission. It provides for local government and citizen participation in carrying out planning activities and in revising the State Plan. It establishes a State Plan review and cross-acceptance procedures between local governments and the Commission. That should help ensure that the new Commission is more effective than the defunct

Division of State Planning.

"Let's get on with it and see that Senate Bill 1464 is promptly enacted with sufficient funds to make the Commission effective.

"It is doubtful that the Commission could meet its very extensive responsibilities using existing personnel on leave from other departments. Good planning must be paid for."

Mr. Van Fossan cautioned against any amendment to the bill to establish a moratorium on further Mt. Laurel housing litigation until a new State Plan is adopted. "The constitutionality of a moratorium amendment to Senate Bill 1464 has been challenged by both New Jersey's Public Advocate and the counsel to the New Jersey League of Municipalities. The New Jersey Supreme Court in its Mt. Laurel II decision acknowledged the importance of the State Plan for the defining municipal obligations to zone for low- and moderate-income housing. The Court pointed out, however, that if the State failed to keep its 1977 Plan up to date, the municipal obligation to zone for low- and moderate-income housing would remain. Senate Bill 1464 reaffirms legislative leadership in planning for the State."

Regional Plan is a half-century old private non-profit association devoted to coordinated planning throughout the New York, New Jersey and Connecticut metropolitan area. Its New Jersey office is headquartered in Newark.

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The full statement is attached.

/mv

May 14, 1984