



LOGAN SQUARE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

P H I L A D E L P H I A

April 21, 2014

The Honorable Stewart Greenleaf
Chairman, Pennsylvania Senate Judiciary Committee
711 North York Road
Willow Grove, Pa. 19090

Dear Senator Greenleaf,

The Logan Square Neighborhood Association (LSNA) supports passage of Senate Bill 1095, an anti Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation (anti SLAPP) law co-sponsored by State Senator Larry Farnese. Passage can a key safeguard for the ultimate success of the neighborhood involvement painstakingly built into Philadelphia's new Zoning Code and related regulations, and a key support for those committed to their neighborhoods' futures.

Our views are shared by many of our sister neighborhood civic associations across Philadelphia, as well as the Crosstown Coalition which also represents several of them..

We would reiterate from our own experience with developers and zoning issues how important good communication and a sense of mutual trust is to achieving "win-win" solutions on projects. In the past, misunderstandings and lack of respect have led to bitter controversies, time-consuming battles, and long-standing resentments. Since then, with rare exceptions, we have been able to work productively with developers, elected officials and neighbors for projects which benefit all stakeholders.

So we worked hard and long for four years with the Zoning Code Commission to gain the civic association involvement and design review procedures now in place in the new code. However we fear that, without the protection built into SB 1095, the chilling effects of SLAPP's could unravel those gains. Unchecked litigation to intimidate civic representation will erode the basic credibility of the entire process in neighborhoods across the city.

Your passage of SB 1095 will mean a great deal to us all. Our thanks and support for your efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David L. Searles". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D".

David L. Searles
President

Cc: Sen. Larry Farnese
Duputy Mayor Alan Greenberger
City Council President Darrell Clarke