

ILLINOIS



ASLA

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February 7, 2009

President Angela Dye, FASLA
American Society of Landscape Architects
636 Eye Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001-3736

Re: Nomination of John Norquist for
Honorary ASLA Membership

Dear President Dye:

The Illinois Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects wishes to nominate former Milwaukee Mayor and current President of the Congress for the New Urbanism, John Norquist for Honorary ASLA Membership.

The Congress for the New Urbanism (CNU) is the leading organization promoting walkable, neighborhood-based development as an alternative to sprawl. CNU takes a proactive, multi-disciplinary approach to restoring our communities. CNU members include planners, developers, architects, engineers, public officials, investors, and community activists who create and influence the built environment, "transforming growth patterns from the inside out." New urbanists support regional planning for open space, context-appropriate architecture and planning, and the balanced development of jobs and housing. They believe their strategies can reduce traffic congestion, increase the supply of affordable housing, and rein in urban sprawl, while preserving historic resources and promoting safe streets, green building and brownfield redevelopment.

As President, Norquist upholds CNU's charter which states:

We advocate the restructuring of public policy and development practices to support the following principles: neighborhoods should be diverse in use and population; communities should be designed for the pedestrian and transit as well as the car; cities and towns should be shaped by physically defined and universally accessible public spaces and community institutions; urban places should be framed by architecture and landscape design that celebrate local history, climate, ecology, and building practice.

John Norquist's work promoting New Urbanism as an alternative to sprawl and antidote to sprawl's social and environmental problems draws on his experience as

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big-city mayor and prominent participant in national discussions on urban design and school reform.

John Norquist was the Mayor of Milwaukee from 1988-2004. Under his leadership, Milwaukee experienced a decline in poverty, saw a boom in new downtown housing and became a leading center of education and welfare reform. He has overseen a revision of the city's zoning code and reoriented development around walkable streets and public amenities such as the city's 3.1-mile Riverwalk. He has drawn widespread recognition for championing the removal of a .8 mile stretch of elevated freeway, clearing the way for an anticipated \$350 million in infill development in the heart of Milwaukee.

In naming Milwaukee America's Most-Underrated City in 2001, the Utne Reader said Norquist "understands what makes cities work as well as anyone in America." Governing magazine named him Public Official of the Year in 1998. Before he was elected Mayor, John Norquist represented Milwaukee in the Wisconsin Legislature. Fellow legislators elected him to Democratic leadership positions in both the state assembly and state senate.

He is the author of *The Wealth of Cities* (Addison-Wesley, 1998) and has taught courses in urban planning and development at the University of Chicago, Marquette University and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee's School of Architecture and Urban Planning. Norquist earned his undergraduate and master's degrees from the University of Wisconsin.

In 2008, Norquist delivered the keynote address to a joint meeting of the Illinois Chapters of ASLA and APA where he urged landscape architects and planners to work together to create more livable communities. In his approach to advocacy of the issues important to our profession, he brings great passion along with a sense of humor which audiences appreciate and applaud.

The Illinois Chapter of ASLA believes that Norquist's work during his career, including his vocal advocacy of sustainable and livable communities, aligns his interests directly with those of our Society. Therefore, the Illinois Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects is pleased to nominate John Norquist for Honorary ASLA Membership.

Sincerely,

Terry Warriner Ryan, FASLA
Trustee, Illinois Chapter ASLA