

Article in *Range* magazine, November 2010.

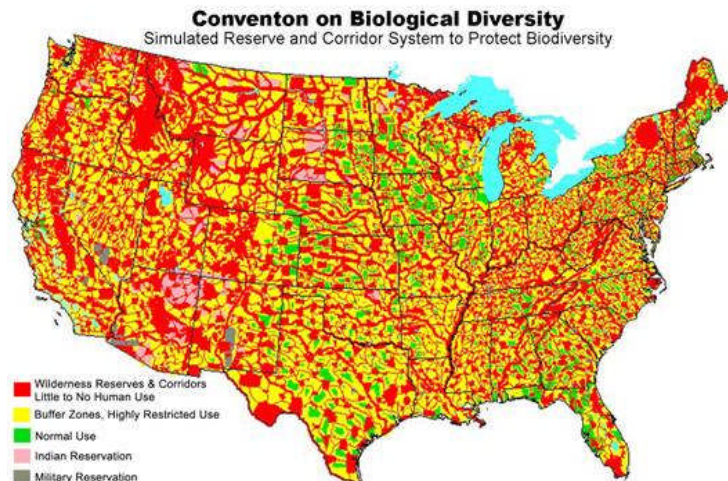
# Livable Communities or Living Hell?

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**The Living Communities and Clear Acts, likely to be up for vote during the Congress's Lame Duck Session, sound like motherhood and apple pie but are really key pieces of the dangerous UN Agenda 21 and the Biodiversity Treaty.**

The heart of the Livable Communities Act is the United Nation's Agenda 21 and what is known as sustainable development, which I have been studying since it first was presented to the world at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. I have a Ph.D. in ecosystems analysis and climatology, and it was through my study of Agenda 21 that I tumbled on to the huge agenda to destroy private property rights and set aside up to one-half of the United States into wilderness in the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity.

Along with 3 other men, I stopped the treaty one hour before the treaty's cloture vote was to be taken in the U.S. Senate on September 30, 1994. We presented the Senate with the needed documentation and a map (below), which I



had been drawing for two years depicting what the treaty would do to America. The map so shook up the Senate that the treaty was never voted on. (See Congressional Record S13790) How we did it is a [fantastic story](#)—a true miracle.

Agenda 21 was introduced by President Clinton's Council on Sustainable Development who published *Sustainable America* and a dozen sub-documents that changed the mission of federal agencies from serving the people of the United States to protecting nature from the people. Agenda 21 literally micromanages human activity across the world. The Livable Communities Act is just one piece of legislation designed to implement it. Global warming/Cap and trade is another. All of this and much more is explained in my new book [Rescuing a Broken America: Why America is Deeply Divided and How to Heal it Constitutionally](#).

The Livable Communities Act, sponsored by outgoing Chris Dodd (D-CT) sounds like motherhood and apple pie. It allegedly helps local governments to combat suburban

sprawl and traffic congestion by providing \$4 billion a year for comprehensive planning by local governments. **Local governments are your key to freedom – if you elect the right people to office!** Although independent of the Livable Communities Act, the CLEAN Act is sponsored by Susan Collins (R-ME) and Maria Cantwell (D-WA). Both bills serve as companion bills that fulfill several goals of the United Nations (UN) Agenda 21. Both have already passed the House of Representatives.

Agenda 21 is a 40 chapter UN document signed by President Bush at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. It quite literally lays out a global plan to micro-manage the human population, their property rights, what they can buy and sell, how they live, the energy they use and what kind of communities they should live in; all in the name of protecting the environment. It is widely discussed around the world – except in the United States. Google lists nearly 17 million documents on the web concerning Agenda 21. Yet, most Americans, including congressmen and women, have never heard of it and are called conspiratorists (or worse) if they mention it.

Agenda 21 has no legal basis to force nations to comply. Instead it relies on international treaties like the Kyoto Protocol for global warming and the Convention on Biological Diversity to legally impose its dictates at the global level. Failing that, legions of national and international environmental and social organizations use fierce pressure on Congress to pass national legislation to do the same thing. Most of the time the Congressmen and Senators sponsoring the bill for the activist groups don't even know it is directly linked to Agenda 21.

Agenda 21 was brought into the federal government by President Clinton's Council on Sustainable Development, of which Google lists over 125 thousand documents. The President's Council published *Sustainable America: A New Consensus for Prosperity, Opportunity and a Healthy Environment for the Future* in February 1996. A dozen more publications were printed in the following years that brought specificity to *Sustainable America*. These publications outline the strategy for bringing the United States into conformance with Agenda 21 and its goal of making Mother Earth the central organizing principle of the world. Rather than serving the American people, federal agencies (and increasingly state agencies) are now mandated to protect nature *from* the American people.

The shock troops to implement sustainable development are provided by the American Planning Association (APA) and the International Council for Local

Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI—now called Local Governments for Sustainability) and a host of smaller groups. The APA and ICLEI work closely together and have direct or indirect connections with the UN. They are heavily involved in providing smart growth and/or sustainable development planning templates for local communities to pass into their ordinances. Most people do not know that ICLEI initially called their planning efforts “Local Agenda 21” until the real intent of Agenda 21 began to be exposed.

Hundreds of towns, cities and counties belong to either the APA or ICLEI; not knowing that these plans cause severe harm to their citizens. Citizens in each city and county should check to see if their community belongs to ICLEI or has an association with the APA. If the community is associated with either or both organizations, learn what those connections are and organize an effort to disassociate the community from the organizations.

By playing on the seemingly altruistic emotional goal of creating open space, population limits, urban growth boundaries, light rail, greenways, green trails and many other catchy names, the APA, ICLEI and other groups create enthusiasm for comprehensive planning that is tailor-made to fulfill the goals of Agenda 21. It is advertised to reduce pollution and traffic congestion while increasing affordable housing and open space.

Smart growth/sustainable development do none of these things. Instead, it makes all of these supposed “benefits” far worse. Study after study shows pollution and traffic congestion actually worsen. Additionally, so-called sustainable development destroys individual property rights and increases the cost of housing by as much as 600 percent according to a Harvard University study! Residents are forced from stand-alone homes into crammed apartments so that open space can be created.

If passed, Senator Dodd’s Livable Communities Act will provide up to \$4 billion a year in grants to communities to implement the APA and ICLEI model of central planning. Of course, the APA and ICLEI, as well as other rent-seeking socialist NGOs, will directly benefit from most of the \$4 billion when local communities hire them for their plans and expertise. By definition, the APA/ICLEI top-down planning models must destroy property rights in order to control growth by preventing development, create vast areas of open space and force people out of their cars and into exorbitantly expensive mass transportation.

For instance, establishing an urban growth boundary through farmland can instantly increase its value, of say \$15,000 per acre, to hundreds of thousands of dollars per acre. A hundred feet away the value of the same farmland on the other side of the growth boundary will forever remain at \$15,000. Planning bureaucrats have incredible

powers to make millionaires or paupers depending on where they draw the line. Like all the other planning schemes of Agenda 21, smart growth/sustainable development are wide open to corruption. It is already happening.

Couple the Livable Communities Act with the CLEAR Act (Consolidated Land, Energy, and Aquatic Resources Act of 2010), and you have a one-two punch that will make the federal government sovereign over the states and the people living in them. Simply stated, the CLEAR Act is a massive extension of federal power that claims control of the oceans, Great Lakes and by extension many other waterways and freshwater resources, mineral mining, solar, geo-thermal and gas and oil conducted on land or in the oceans, in, on or near the continental United States.

The CLEAR Act also regulates oil drilling and production and institutes a stealth Cap and Trade scheme without calling it Cap and Trade. It establishes a monthly auction in which fuel producers would bid for “carbon credits.” To defray the impact of increased energy costs, every household family of four would receive \$1,100 per year back from the federal government. The problem is, that study after study shows this scheme will eventually cost the average family of four between \$5,000 and \$8,000 per year.

CLEAR also funds the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) at \$900 million per year from the royalties earned from oil production. The purpose of the LWCF is to buy private land for the purpose of creating open space. This is a direct link to the Livable Communities Act and The Wildlands Protect.

It is doubtful the sponsors of these two bills are aware of their direct link to Agenda 21, nor the unintended consequences they will impose on citizens. It is imperative that every effort is made by all citizens to call their Senators and tell them to vote NO on these two bills. Other dangerous bills which intertwine with the Livable Communities and CLEAR Acts that should be opposed if they come up during the Lame Duck session are:

The Clean Water Restoration Act (SB 787)  
The Wildlife Corridors Conservation Act (HR 5101)  
Clean Energy Technology Act (SB 3738)  
Farm Bill Legislation (may include provision for creating wildlife corridors)

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Dr. Michael Coffman is the author of *Rescuing a Broken America; Why America Is Deeply Divided and How to Heal it Constitutionally*. He is president of Environmental Perspectives, Inc. in Bangor Maine, and is a regular contributor to *Range*.