President Trump and Members of Congress,

We, the undersigned local elected leaders of the First & Main coalition, represent rural communities, tribal areas, small towns and mid-sized cities across the United States. We present this blueprint to cross party lines and restore the prosperity of America’s towns and cities—and the people within them—that have been missing out or left behind.

The First & Main Blueprint can provide our communities with the resources we need to prosper by doing three basic things:

1. **Protecting** the federal programs that are proven to work for our local communities,
2. **Improving** the programs that we believe can be effective, and,
3. **Creating** new programs to provide local communities with additional resources.

**What’s First & Main?** The corner of First & Main is where everything happens. Whether in a rural area or a smaller city, First & Main is the anchor of it all. It’s where east and west meet north and south. It’s the county seat. It’s where you can find the old train depot that built the town, City Hall, the family restaurant everyone knows, the businesses that continue to drive our local economy, or the corner from which to spot the most beautiful historic buildings in town. These communities form the basic building block of our nation’s prosperity.

The potential of our communities is abundant, yet decades of disinvestment have undermined their economic potential. We have seen factories shuttered, local roads and bridges deteriorate, quality of life compromised, and jobs lost. To send prosperity rippling outward to everyone in our communities and then throughout the country, we need a reliable federal partner to support our homegrown, local efforts. We’re calling on you to help us turn these cities and towns into beacons of opportunity for everyone, including those who are struggling and have been left behind within them.

We see deep inequities in the health, transportation, housing, and economic development outcomes that result from federal investments. Many of our communities are too often left out, and even when investments do reach us, the benefits often fail to extend to everyone.

We all share four key principles that guide what we’re asking of you:

1. **Support locally-driven community revitalization**, which is essential to the vitality of these communities and attracting additional investment to our region.
2. **Build vibrant, healthy, walkable towns and cities** to help address health disparities and connect everyone in the community to greater opportunities, strengthen entire regions, enhance quality of life, and attract additional and sustained economic investment.
3. **Create opportunities for everyone** in America’s small and mid-sized communities by providing equal access and distribution to small and mid-size communities within federal programs.

4. **Invest in infrastructure that creates lasting value**, not expensive liabilities for which our communities lack the money to maintain. Connecting more places and people is critical for success, and rebuilding and fixing existing infrastructure upon which we have relied for decades should be our first priority.

Derived from these overarching principles, our full Blueprint—which can be found in full here: [https://smartgrowthamerica.org/join-first-and-main/blueprint/](https://smartgrowthamerica.org/join-first-and-main/blueprint/) — is composed of 31 detailed strategies arrayed through these five areas that are under your budgetary or policy control:

- **Redevelopment and Revitalization** includes strategies like redeveloping brownfields, and preserving vital Tax-Exempt Municipal Bonds, New Market Tax Credits, and Historic Preservation Tax Credits, among others.

- **Local Economic Development** includes strategies like boosting the Economic Development Administration and the Rural Development program within the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and expanding the Appalachian Community Renewal program, among others.

- **Rebuilding Downtown & Core Areas** includes strategies like creating a Public Square Initiative within the National Park Service and an Anchor Institution Initiative within the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and funding HUD’s Neighborhood Renewal program, among others.

- **Create Housing & Neighborhoods** includes strategies like making improvements to Affordable Housing Tax Credits, preserving the National Housing Trust Fund, and providing $3 billion each year for Community Development Block Grants.

- **Infrastructure Investment** includes strategies like continuing to fund TIGER grants, the Transportation Alternatives Program, and all Federal Transit Administration programs to help communities invest in community-scale and priority transportation projects; providing grants to expand broadband internet access through gigabit zones; and providing more funding for the State Clean Water & Drinking Water Revolving Funds and the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act to improve water infrastructure funding and integrated water infrastructure approaches.

The undersigned mayors, city councilors, town leaders, county executives and commissioners, tribal leaders, and other local elected officials from across America are calling on the federal government to support and partner with their local communities by enacting this Blueprint. We urge you to focus on proven solutions that will stimulate the kind of economic growth that will create vibrant, healthy communities; bring prosperity to all of our residents, families, and workers; and produce the rising tide that lifts all boats in our communities.

Sincerely,