

Why We Defend the American Dream

The American dream of freedom, mobility, and affordable homeownership has produced enormous benefits for Americans.

Homeownership—More than 80 percent of Americans say their ideal home is a single-family house with a yard. Homes are one of the best investments a young family can make. The most important source of funds for new businesses in the U.S. is mortgages on the businessowner's homes.



Mobility—Automobiles give Americans access to better and higher paying jobs, lower-cost consumer goods, rapid-response emergency services, distant friends and relatives, and all sorts of recreation opportunities.

Freedom—According to the Heritage Foundation's *2002 Index of Economic Freedom*, nations that protect property rights and other forms of economic freedom have per capita incomes at least six times greater than nations with little or no economic freedom. Higher incomes mean higher environmental quality as well.

Founding Coalition Members

Founding members of the American Dream Coalition include:

- ★ Homebuilders
 - ★ Transportation builders
 - ★ Realtors
 - ★ Property rights advocates
 - ★ Mobility supporters
 - ★ Groups promoting efficient transit
 - ★ Neighborhood groups
 - ★ Think tanks
 - ★ Other business and citizens' groups concerned about freedom, mobility, affordable homeownership, and related issues.
- If you would like to be more effective in protecting the future of your community, use the membership form on the other side of this page to join the American Dream Coalition.

Contacting the Coalition

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The American Dream Coalition



Protecting

★ **Freedom**

★ **Mobility**

★ **Affordable**

homeownership

Threats to the American Dream

A new planning doctrine known as *smart growth* calls for dense urban development, restrictions on rural development, ineffective and expensive rail transit, and barriers to auto driving. Despite its attractive name, smart growth is one of the greatest threats to American mobility, affordable housing, and freedom today.

Homeownership—Smart growth's urban-growth boundaries and regulation of home construction make housing unaffordable to most families. Housing in San Jose, Portland, and other smart-growth cities is far less affordable than housing in Las Vegas, Phoenix, and other less-regulated cities.

Mobility—Though traffic congestion costs Americans more than \$60 billion a year, smart growth actually seeks to increase congestion in order to discourage people from driving.



Freedom—Smart growth requires draconian restrictions on property owners and businesses. Limits on rural development, minimum-density zoning in urban areas, and strict rules for retailers and other businesses all impede economic freedom and increase costs to homebuyers and consumers.

How the Coalition Can Help You

The mission of the American Dream Coalition is to help its members promote the American dream and oppose coercive land-use planning and wasteful transportation projects through such activities as:

National conference—An annual American Dream conference will bring together experts and activists from all over the nation.



Participants in the first American Dream conference.

Regional seminars—The Coalition will help you plan and hold a regional seminar for local officials and activists.

Technical assistance—The Coalition will provide you with access to experts who can help you challenge local threats to freedom, mobility, and homeownership.

Leadership training—Books, videos, and other publications along with workshops and other programs will help you build a local American dream coalition in your area.

News service—The Coalition will keep you up to date about threats to and efforts to defend the American dream.

Join the American Dream Coalition

Your membership supports the Coalition's efforts and give you access to tools and resources you need to protect the American dream. Sustaining, contributing, and full members each have one vote on the Coalition steering committee. Associate and individual members elect three more representatives. All members have access to Coalition resources including publications and technical assistance.

- Yes! I/we want to join the American Dream Coalition as a:
 - Sustaining member (\$5,000/year)
 - Contributing member (\$1,000/year)
 - Full member (\$250/year)
 - Associate group member (\$100/year)
 - Individual member (\$25/year)
- Enclosed is my check
- I will pay through PayPal
- I also want to contribute:
 - \$100
 - \$1,000
 - \$_____



Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

E-mail _____

Website _____

Please make checks payable to American Dream Coalition and send to ADC, P.O. Box 1590, Bandon, Oregon 97411