

Advocacy Alert: H162 Letter to Your Senator Template

Use this document to help email your senator in support of H162!

NOTE: This is NOT a copy-and-paste template. Please fill in the blanks, make edits, and include your own perspective. Personal stories are the most powerful part of any advocacy letter.

Dear Senator _____,

(Click here to find your senator's name and email)

My name is [YOUR NAME], and I live [county/city/town/neighborhood]. I am writing as your constituent to express my support for H162.

The bill supports business growth and affordable housing, protects the health and character of our communities, and reduces runoff and flooding in our waterways. It does so by removing outdated parking requirements, allowing parking to be built based on demand rather than rigid regulations, and empowering local governments to manage runoff during redevelopment.

I support this bill because:

(Choose a few that resonate with you or write your own)

- *Conservation:* Parking minimums force the construction of oversized lots that create impervious surfaces, increasing flood risk, generating runoff, destroying habitat, worsening air quality, and contributing to excess heat.
- *Conservation:* Runoff is the leading cause of water pollution in North Carolina. Capturing runoff from older properties undergoing redevelopment reduces pollution and flooding.
- *Small business:* Parking minimums impose significant construction and maintenance costs on business owners. A single parking space costs thousands of dollars to build, increasing expenses and limiting revenue opportunities.
- *Housing affordability:* Parking minimums increase development costs, adding more than \$200 to monthly rent. Reforming these rules gives developers more flexibility to create affordable housing.
- *Community planning:* Parking minimums create oversized parking lots that fragment communities and contribute to urban sprawl. These regulations also limit the revitalization of main streets and create an unnecessary administrative burden for government staff.
- *Community safety:* Runoff raises water levels and causes stream banks to overflow, increasing flood risk for downstream communities.
- *Supply and Demand:* Parking minimums require businesses and developers to build more parking than the market demands, resulting in underutilized lots that drive up costs.
- *Local economy:* Parking minimums reduce space for new businesses, weakening the local tax base and limiting long-term economic growth.
- *Public health:* Parking minimums result in expanses of dark asphalt that absorb and generate heat, contributing to heat exhaustion, respiratory issues, and heat-related hospitalizations.
- *Agriculture:* Parking minimums create excess impervious surface area which generates runoff that degrades the quality of water used to irrigate crops, threatening crop yields.
- *Insurance:* Parking minimums create excess impervious surface that raise flood risk, resulting in higher insurance premiums or the dropping of coverage entirely.

Thank you for your service, time, and consideration. I hope you will support this piece of legislation.

Your constituent,

[YOUR NAME]