

Recognize the Elitist Nature of “Anti-Sprawl” Measures

For the greater part of the last century, many people have sought the American Dream by raising their families in suburbs. But today, anti-sprawl activists blame the suburbs for a host of environmental and social ills, and push initiatives to limit housing growth to high-density patterns. Such initiatives often end up raising housing prices while exacerbating the very problems they claim to fix, such as traffic and

pollution. Their main effect is to make suburban living accessible only to the well-to-do.

Federal programs that subsidize suburban development should be restricted or eliminated, but the same should be done to programs that boost urban development, whether via subsidies or outright coercion.

Sam Kazman