



For Immediate Release  
January 21, 2005

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## Regional Reality Check Summit Approaches on Feb 2nd *Local Leaders to Attend From 20+ Greater DC Jurisdictions*

**Washington, D.C.** – Nearly 300 elected officials and community, environmental, housing and business leaders from Washington and more than 20 jurisdictions around the Beltway will attend a unique one-day exercise—known as **Reality Check**—to envision how the region will absorb another 2 million people and 1.6 million jobs over the next 25 years. The event, the first of its kind in the Greater Washington region, will be held **Wednesday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2005** at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center. The event is co-sponsored by a broad coalition of more than a dozen environmental, government, business and educational organizations from across the D.C. area.

Reality Check is intended to provoke a regional discussion about **where** we should grow, while future efforts on the local level will consider **how** we should grow. It's co-sponsored by the Urban Land Institute's Washington District Council and the Washington Smart Growth Alliance.

### **Participating Jurisdictions**

*Includes Municipalities Within  
These Jurisdictions*

- Washington, D.C.
- Maryland
  - Anne Arundel County
  - Calvert County
  - Charles County
  - Howard County
  - Frederick County
  - Montgomery County
  - Prince George's County
  - St. Mary's County
- Virginia
  - Alexandria
  - Arlington County
  - Fairfax City
  - Manassas
  - Falls Church
  - Fairfax County
  - Fauquier County
  - Loudoun County
  - Prince William County
  - Stafford County
  - Spotsylvania County

This week, participants will be mailed a special 59-page Reality Check Guidebook that will provide background information about the exercise and a compendium of regional and local facts and issues that will be discussed during the event. **Visit [www.RealityCheckWashington.org](http://www.RealityCheckWashington.org) under Resources for a copy of the Guidebook.**

Through discourse and negotiation, all 300 participants will propose alternative growth scenarios by placing LEGO® blocks representing a certain amount of households and jobs on a grid-covered map of the region. The results of this work will set the groundwork for needed regional dialogue and future action to accommodate growth in a way that leverages resources, adds value to our communities, and protects our environment and quality of life.

In spring 2005, Reality Check organizers will compile the outcomes of the exercise in a wrap-up report, which will also include tools, indicators and recommendations for value-added planning on the local and regional levels. The exercise has been designed to accomplish four tasks:

1. Provide a region-wide awareness of the level of growth that is coming
2. Allocate projected housing and job growth throughout the region
3. Recognize the legitimate points of view of different stakeholders
4. Lay the foundation for the development of a concrete list of next steps to assure quality growth to meet the region's needs over the next two decades

For more information, visit [www.RealityCheckWashington.org](http://www.RealityCheckWashington.org) or contact **Beth Offenbacher** at **703.683.4815 x202 (office)** or **703.623.4811 (cell)**.

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Supporting Institutions include the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, the Coalition for Smarter Growth, Fannie Mae, George Mason University, George Washington University, Greater Washington Board of Trade, Johns Hopkins University, Metropolitan Washington Builders' Council, Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, National Capital Planning Commission, the National Center for Smart Growth at the University of Maryland and the Metropolitan Institute at Virginia Tech.