



June 16, 2020

Dear Friends,

As the nation continues to mourn and learn, changes are being proposed at every level of government to address pervasive societal racial inequities and injustices.

An enormous indicator of racial and economic inequity in New Jersey are the segregated places where we live and work. These racially and economically segregated communities perpetuate inequities and vulnerabilities in all aspects of life including education, physical and mental health, economic opportunity, ability to respond to disasters, and life expectancy. Even before COVID-19 struck, a recent study funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation found that the life expectancy for a person born in Trenton is 14 years less than a person born a short drive up Route 1 in Princeton.

As an organization committed to smart growth, New Jersey Future has long been a leader in driving smarter decision-making about the places where we live and work. And New Jersey needs to get smarter. We must work together to end segregation and create a geography of equity and inclusion. This goal should be a significant focus of our recovery. With an equitable place-centered approach that creates opportunity and resiliency for all New Jersey communities, New Jersey will recover stronger and far better.

Toward equity,

Peter Kasabach
Executive Director