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Respected NRDC Sustainability Leader Kaid Benfield to Become ‘Senior Counsel’ to PlaceMakers

WASHINGTON, DC, October 28, 2014 – Kaid Benfield, who is stepping down from his position at the Natural Resources Defense Council after leading its smart growth and sustainability initiatives for two decades, will become Senior Counsel for Environmental Strategies for PlaceMakers, LLC, effective January 1.

“We couldn’t be more delighted that Kaid has agreed to help us strengthen our sustainability strategies in communities where we work,” said PlaceMakers managing principal Hazel Borys. “He’s been among the nation’s leaders in identifying the links between environmental priorities and the social and economic health of communities, then developing strategies to leverage those connections. And that’s a pretty good description of our priorities, as well.”

In addition to his smart growth work for NRDC, Mr. Benfield teaches law, policy, and best practices for sustainable communities at the George Washington University School of Law. His latest book is *People Habitat: 25 Ways to Think About Greener, Healthier Cities*, distributed by Island Press. And his print and online articles have appeared, in among other places, The Huffington Post, Sustainable Cities, Better Cities & Towns, Atlantic Cities, and NRDC websites.

“My years with NRDC were the most rewarding of my career, and I treasure its mission and my friends there,” said Mr. Benfield. “So it’s tough to leave. I’ll continue to advise NRDC informally after my departure. But I’m also tremendously excited to be working with PlaceMakers, a firm I’ve long admired. My future colleagues are among the very best at building stronger communities with thoughtful approaches to planning and development.”

PlaceMakers, LLC is a consulting firm focusing on smart growth approaches to community design, planning, coding and communications. For more information on its strategies, partners and projects go here: www.placemakers.com.

And for more on the issues and approaches likely to be the focus of the PlaceMakers/Benfield collaboration, see this PlaceShakers Q&A: www.placemakers.com/2014/10/27/kaid-benfield/

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