

Planning and Development Committee
March 15, 2021

**Senate Bill 1024: AN ACT CONCERNING ZONING AUTHORITY, CERTAIN DESIGN GUIDELINES,
QUALIFICATIONS OF CERTAIN LAND USE OFFICIALS AND CERTAIN SEWAGE DISPOSAL SYSTEMS**

Senator Cassano, Representative McCarthy Vahey, Senator Hwang, Representative Zullo, and members of the Planning and Development Committee:

My name is Stephen Anderson and I am the President of CSEA SEIU Local 2001, a labor union which represents thousands of state, municipal, and private sector workers, as well as over 11,500 retirees. I offer the following testimony on their behalf in support of Senate Bill 1024.

The fair and just world to which we all aspire will never be within our reach as long as discrimination plays a role in our society. Housing discrimination inflicts a special kind of pain that builds anxiety, furthers fear, and allows divisions to grow. And, because housing discrimination is amplified and enforced by the outdated zoning laws that exist in Connecticut, it is one that is carried out in the name of the residents of this state. SB 1024 will help us build a more equitable, stronger, and cleaner Connecticut.

The reforms in SB 1024 will help create more housing that will reduce the cost overall. And, it will build a more diverse housing stock that will truly be responsive to modern needs and desires. Plus, it does all this while also protecting the Connecticut we love by saving farmland and forest from destruction.

Zoning laws dictate how we design and build our communities. They are powerful tools that can advance the economic interests of everyone who lives here. But as we have seen, they can also be used to cement into place a segregated society. With smart zoning reform, we can boost our economy, make our communities more equitable, and protect our environment. We can help the Connecticut we love flourish and live up to its full potential.

I urge you to support Senate Bill 1024.

Thank you.

Stephen Anderson
CSEA SEIU Local 2001