

*To:* CT General Assembly Planning & Development Committee

*From:* Thomas Aragona, Norwalk, CT

*Re:* SB 1024, An Act Concerning Zoning Authority, Certain Design Guidelines, Qualifications Of Certain Land Use Officials And Certain Sewage Disposal Systems

*Date:* March 15, 2021

Chairman Cassano, Chairwoman McCarthy Vahey, Vice Chairman Needleman, Vice Chairwoman Goupil, Ranking Member Senator Hwang, Ranking Member Zullo, and Members of the Committee:

This state desperately needs more abundant housing and more diverse types of housing. It makes no sense to have an underfunded pension system, high income and local tax burden, and a steady/declining population in a state where houses regularly sell for prices much higher than elsewhere in the United States. Connecticut should be doing everything in its power to build more affordable housing, attract new residents, and keep the residents we currently have in state. If the demand is there (and from housing prices here, it seems like it very much is) the supply should be increased to meet it, both to ensure everyone can afford a home and to maintain a diverse and vibrant place to live. It is both the moral and the smart thing to do – a true win-win situation.