

Representatives and Senators,

Hello and thank you for taking the time to read.

My name is Kellin Atherton and I am a Planning and Zoning Commissioner from Middletown. I'm also one of my PZ Commission's representatives to the Regional Planning Commission - an entity supported by the Lower CT River Valley Council of Governments.

In these roles, I am able to see a dramatic disparity between the quantity of affordable housing provided here in Middletown, and the lack of such housing in the rest of the region. Middletown provides a great deal of affordable housing, with neighboring cities such as Portland and Cromwell at or close to percentages of acceptable offerings as well. However, the rest of the region has much work to do.

Taking a 10,000 foot view of this region, and in an effort to echo the sentiment of regional vision this body seeks to achieve, I am very concerned at the lack of offerings of some of the regional partners, and how issues of economic, age, and racial equity are further hindered by these shortcomings. The long-term risks of this imbalance will be population loss, reduction in public school populations, and economic inequality.

I am understanding of the criticisms of this step. Critics will highlight the process and pace of this bill as it advances. I urge you to continually monitor our state's momentum on affordable housing, and audit our progress regularly with an eye for additional legislation should it be required.

However, there are times in leadership where citizens must be led into a new era of governance. Your support and passage of SB 1024 is a critical step at this time.

Thank you for your attention to this issue and for your support of our great state.

Regards,

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