

*To:* CT General Assembly Planning & Development Committee

*From:* Drew Beckmen - New Haven, 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:

I am writing in support of SB 1024, which has the potential to reshape the Connecticut land use system and economy to be more productive and equitable. Nothing is more important to me than the future growth and prosperity of Connecticut, and SB 1024 can have an enduring impact on communities around CT.

The proposals outlined in SB 1024 seek to solve a range of problems facing Connecticut today. Zoning reform will transform Connecticut's economy as housing costs fall. The increase in housing availability will infuse the CT economy with jobs and boost state and local government revenue. In my home of New Haven, the accessibility and affordability of housing also differs greatly on racial lines. To push forward our collective wish for a more racially equitable society, we need to pass SB 1024.

SB 1024 also has benefits beyond the economy. The policies in SB 1024 will have positive environmental impact by limiting sprawl and favoring development using existing infrastructure.

The way in which CT residents interact with the land around them is one of the most important issues we can address today. As members of the Planning and Development Committee, I hope you consider the diverse benefits that SB 1024 will bring to Connecticut residents.

Thank you for your consideration.