

*To:* CT General Assembly Planning & Development Committee

*From:* Joanne Belluzzi, Old Lyme, 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 write today to voice my support for SB1024. I am a fairly new resident of Old Lyme, Connecticut who has benefitted greatly from the many amazing natural resources, excellent cultural events, outstanding community services, and an overall quality of life that is first-rate. I am disheartened that the wonderful experiences that I enjoy in my town are simply not possible for many others. A large part of this inequity comes from a history of zoning laws, regulations and procedures that have supported and maintained a segregated Connecticut. It is sad that many people who provide services by maintaining public facilities, working in our restaurants, taking care of our lawns, and many other similar tasks are left out of the equation. I believe that the major elements of SB1024 will change things so that towns like mine have model policies, training, technical standards, and, specifically in Old Lyme, a blueprint for a Main Street that would add a new dimension to the quality of life for all. The present situation has been a very long time in the making. It is now time to do whatever possible to change a history that has benefitted some at the expense of many. I urge the Committee to pass this important bill on to the full Legislature.