

Good afternoon Chairmen Lopes and McGee and ranking members Cicarella and Polletta. My name is Wendy Bowditch, I am chairman of the Easton Republican Town Committee and a 30-year resident of the Town of Easton. I am here in opposition of SB 1024.

The fact that there are 169 municipalities in Connecticut is testimony of the overwhelming desire for us to have local control over our planning and zoning. Easton has for decades been guardians of 41% wetlands. CT General Statutes 22a-36 and 22a-45 created Wetlands commissions that are charged with protection of surface and groundwater essential to the existence of animal, aquatic and plant life.

To remove local control of these assets and expand the power of housing authorities via expansion and eminent domain flies in the face of the task with which we have been charged. We cannot continue to have cookie cutter laws that do not address the uniqueness of towns like Easton in Connecticut. The rural nature of our town requires thoughtful planning and consideration to continue to protect the environment and water supply, which cannot be accomplished under a one-size-fits all, statewide approach to zoning.

CT General Statutes 8-1 through 8-30i created Planning and Zoning commissions to create environments that secure safety, prevent overcrowding and undue concentration of population to facilitate public requirements within the town. To remove these basic essentials makes no sense to me.

I would hope you would reconsider these proposed rules and take a look at what the existing rules have done for the greater good of the state.

Thank you for your time.

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