

To: Connecticut General Assembly Planning and Development Committee

From: Mary Cappiello, Brookfield 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 Zullo, and Members of the Committee,

Hello. I serve on my local Zoning Commission. I support SB 1024 because it has many common sense plans to make housing in Connecticut more affordable. We need affordable housing for our seniors, working families, and our young people who are just starting out. Many of our young people go to college and then start their careers out of state because they feel that they can not afford to live in Connecticut. Some of the changes would also be helpful in improving equity in education and health. A few even address environmental concerns.

If training for commissioners is required, I respectfully suggest that it is done via Zoom or video modules. Commissioners want and need training, but are volunteers with jobs, families and often serve their communities in other capacities and on other boards and commissions, as I do. Cutting out travel time would make it easier to complete training sessions.

I hope that whatever is enacted, you give land use boards time and guidance to rewrite local regulations and implement them.

Thank you for your work on this matter.

Thank you for your consideration.

Mary Cappiello  
Brookfield, CT