

March 15, 2021

Dear Planning & Development Committee Members,

I am writing in opposition to SB 1024, HB 6107, HB 6611, HB 6112, HB 6613, SB 1026, SB 1027, HB 6107. These bills are all looking to remove local zoning control and move it the state level.

While affordable housing is important, decisions about local land use, development and zoning should be controlled by the locally elected town government, and NOT the state. Small towns have their own unique infrastructure and environmental issues, and it's the local municipalities that are best placed to make the decisions that will affect their residents. Why should the state be able to take away the rights and representations of local taxpayers and residents to decide how their town should be developed?

These bills, if enacted, will also have unintended consequences, including overburdening the current public water and sewer infrastructure, increasing traffic and parking issues, as well as increasing the demands on local police, fire and schools.

Please vote NO for these bills, and instead support and trust the existing and locally elected town zoning and land use decision making bodies. The CT legislature should instead be focused on reforming state pensions, improving the state-wide economy, and bringing jobs and businesses back to the state. Punishing small towns with this legislation will not bring the reforms needed to improve the inner-city schools or urban centers of Connecticut.

Sincerely,

Lisa Carpenter
New Canaan, CT