

Dear Chairman Cassano, Chairwoman McCarthy Vahey, Vice Chairman Needleman, Vice Chairwoman Goupil, Ranking Member Senator Hwang, Ranking Member Zullo, and Distinguished Members of the Connecticut General Assembly Joint Planning and Development Committee:

I write in support of the following bills:

1. **SB 1024** - AN ACT CONCERNING ZONING AUTHORITY, CERTAIN DESIGN GUIDELINES, QUALIFICATIONS OF CERTAIN LAND USE OFFICIALS AND CERTAIN SEWAGE DISPOSAL SYSTEMS.
2. **SB 1026** - AN ACT CONCERNING TRAINING FOR CERTAIN PLANNING AND ZONING OFFICIALS.
3. **HB 6611** - AN ACT CONCERNING A NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND OTHER POLICIES REGARDING AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND DEVELOPMENT.

In 1997, my congregation (Spring Glen Church UCC in Hamden) voted to approve an Open & Affirming statement that included these lines: "*We oppose any intimidation, harassment, neglect of or violence against any group in society, with special attention to those who have often been victims because of their **race, gender, age, nationality, economic circumstance, physical ability, mental condition, or sexual orientation**. We advocate the basic civil rights of all persons in such areas as employment, **housing**, and legal protection.*"

Our faith and our research has brought us to the understanding that housing is an issue with intersectional implications for racism, sexism, ableism, homophobia, economic inequity, and climate crisis. I implore you to prioritize the undoing of these injustices when you vote on these matters.

Through a neighborhood group called Spring Forward, our church members, along with two other congregations, have once again learned that we perpetuate these bigotries when we let them hide within mundane zoning regulations & implementation.

As legislators, you have a unique opportunity to uproot the systemic racism that has been infused with Connecticut's zoning culture & regulation practices from the beginning. We need your vote so that together we can build a truly desegregated Connecticut.

Blessings,

Rev Jack Perkins Davidson

Senior Pastor, he/him/his
Spring Glen Church
Hamden, CT
SpringGlenChurch.org
203-903-8044