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RE: SB 1024

I am writing to express my vehement opposition to the above bill.

Nobody can argue that there needs to be affordable housing for all. However this bill ignores the fact that nobody is better versed to know what a community needs, or more importantly what it can afford than the individual cities and towns.

The above bill is clearly designed to *undermine local authority* in zoning decisions, and carries with it the probability that it will overtax some communities' ability to afford the requirements contained therein.

This is an extension of a proposal in the federal government to have federal and state bureaucrats decide where affordable housing is "needed" and is nothing more than a scheme to overrun the suburbs with urban problems.

In other words, it is a clear scheme to regionalize cities such as Hartford, Bridgeport, New Haven and others. Moreover, it is part of Biden's so-called "Build Back Better" nonsense, which is nothing more than a part of the "Great Reset" which seeks to turn the United States into a third-world banana republic.

This bill will override local towns and cities authority to:

- Control certain types of housing, such as multi-family housing, including apartment buildings, without the ability of residents of those communities to supply input. This is a power grab of epic proportions.
- Would impose unfunded state mandates on cities and towns.
- Possibly overtax facilities, such as the provision of water, sewers, drinking water, natural gas, etc.
- Would possibly impact open space in certain cities and towns and force the building of housing facilities on those lands
- Have a significant impact on traffic
- Increase in crime
- Overburden the capability of municipal services such as police, fire, and EMS, along with forcing cities and towns to build additional schools
- Possibly require access to public transportation, which in suburban and rural towns is clearly impractical.

People who can afford to do so move to suburbs and rural areas to avoid urban sprawl and the accompanying issues of high crime, high taxes and insufficient municipal services.

In the aftermath of a pandemic which has put tens of thousands of Connecticut residents out of work, shuttered thousands of businesses, and where people are fleeing Connecticut like rats from the Titanic, this is simply the wrong proposal, in the wrong place, at the wrong time.

I urge its defeat.

Patrick Droney
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