

*To:* CT General Assembly Planning & Development Committee

*From:* NAME/TOWN OF RESIDENCE

*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 Senator Hwang, Ranking Member Zullo, and Members of the Committee:

I believe that our community needs greater access to affordable housing. Our town is a diverse place, and zoning reform efforts like this one will help to ensure that everyone of all racial and economic backgrounds feel welcome within our community. When we increase the amount of housing available and make that housing more affordable, we send a message to the community that we value people of all backgrounds and that we are actually *investing* in making housing accessible to a greater number of people. Right now there are too many barriers to entry to having affordable housing in town that disproportionately impact those who are less financially secure. We have an opportunity to make housing more equitable and just and we should do so.

Sincerely,

Jamison Fletcher

Newtown, CT