

To: pdtestimony@cga.ct.gov

Attached please find my letter in support of SB 1024

The Rev. Carleen R. Gerber

435 Hamburg Road, Lyme, Ct. 06371

To: Ct. General Assembly Planning and Development Committee

From: Carleen R Gerber, Lyme

Re: SB 1024, An Act Concerning Zoning Authority, Certain Design Guidelines, Qualifications of Certain Land Use Officials and Certain Sewage Disposal Systems

Date: March 14, 2021

Chairman Cassano, Chairwoman McCarthy Vahey, Vice Chairman Needleman, Vice Chairwoamn Goupil, Ranking Member Senator Hwang, Ranking Member Zullo, and Members of the Committee

I offer the following as my experience as a minister of a Congregational Church in Old Lyme, Ct. and a member of the Old Lyme Affordable Housing Cte and the Lyme Compact for affordable housing and The Lyme Affordable Housing Board.

In our congregation of nearly 1,000 members we are aware of at least 12 older women – all widows- who have had to sell their home in Old Lyme and move to other communities because a small –sized and affordable housing alternative was not available in our own town. We have also had the experience of offering temporary housing to 4 refugee families who eventually had to move to other towns because they could not afford to live in Lyme or Old Lyme. I also help to offer emotional support to numbers of elderly families in our area who cannot find help to live nearby (or in an accessory apartment on site) so that they could stay in their own homes and “age in place.”

Our area has a critical shortage of affordable houses. Changes to our zoning laws is ciritcal.

I thank you for your work and wish you well. The Rev. Carleen R. Gerber