

*To:* CT General Assembly Planning & Development Committee

*From:* Don 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 Chairwoman Goupil, Ranking Member Senator Hwang, Ranking Member Zullo, and Members of the Committee:

I offer the following as my experience as a volunteer over the past forty years –

- Member, Habitat for Humanity Board, New London County (5 yrs)
- Chairman, P&Z Commission (10 yrs)
- Chairman, IWA and Conservation Commission (10 yrs)
- VP, Land Trust (8 yrs)
- Member, RTC (30 yrs)

There are many segments of our society that require affordable housing – those not employed full time, those earning minimum wage, those with health or mental issues, veterans recovering from injuries, elderly with minimal income, etc. The need for affordable housing continues to exceed the supply. The shortage is exacerbated by events such as downturns in the economy and COVID19 ..... and zoning regulations that result in higher than necessary housing costs.

Following a careful review of the subject proposed legislation, I have concluded that the passage of this bill would have a positive impact on helping to ensure that we could provide affordable housing for all of those in need. I therefore ask that you support passage of this important legislation.

Best

*/Don/*

Donald Gerber, 435 Hamburg Road, Lyme, CT 06371