

Public Hearing Testimony in favor of SB1024

March 15, 2021

Good afternoon. Thank you Chairman Cassano, Chairwoman McCarthy Vahey, Vice Chairman Needleman, Vice Chairwoman Goupil, Ranking Member Senator Hwang, Ranking Member Zullo, and Members of the Committee for your time and consideration. My name is Ryan Hawley, I live in Danbury and I proudly serve on the City's Zoning Commission. I am here to speak in favor of SB1024 as a private citizen.

The zoning reforms indicated in the bill will be consequential in addressing and correcting many systemic inequities our zoning laws have caused in many communities across the state. I am especially in favor Sec 9 which outlines 6-hour training requirements for all land use officials. As a first-time land use commission member, I would have found this helpful navigating the waters of land use. This training will make local governments more efficient and effective and may save a few dollars on potentially costly lawsuits.

However, I would also like to share a concern I have. In Danbury, we have exceeded the affordable housing percentage required by state statute, we have housing for a variety of price points and preferences, and our community is vibrant and diverse because of this. Keep communities like Danbury in mind when crafting and debating local control municipalities have in creating and enforcing their regulations.

Thank you again for your time and your leadership.