

Written Testimony Supporting SB 1024 An Act Concerning Zoning Authority, Certain Design Guidelines, Qualifications Of Certain Land Use Officials And Certain Sewage Disposal Systems

March 15, 2021

To: CT General Assembly Planning & Development Committee

From: Zachary Hayden/ Westbrook

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

My name is Zachary Hayden, and I am a teacher and father of two children from Westbrook. This past year my younger brother, another teacher and father of two, looked into moving his family from the Twin Cities in Minnesota, “back east”, closer to us and other family members. He was moving from a home he had been able to buy because he could also rent part of it to generate needed income. Over time, his family grew and he was able to expand into the whole home. That kind of flexible, and affordable living situation was much harder for him to find in a place like Connecticut, and in fact, he settled in another state. Although affordability was an important factor for him, being able to move into a community that reflected and valued diversity was a consideration for him and his family as well.

SB 1024 allows for towns to realize a more ideal and flexible housing plan that will attract and keep residents like my brother and his family. It will also allow for older residents, individuals, and couples without children to be able to explore living in a small town as easily as a more urban municipality. This bill will help move the very entrenched and regressive “needle” that keeps Connecticut a network of overly homogenous and disconnected communities. SB 1024 is an important step in bringing Connecticut into the 21st Century and that will help grow and improve the 21st Century communities we need.

Thank you for this opportunity to share my support for this resolution,
Zachary Hayden, Westbrook, CT