

I am writing this testimony to express my support for the zoning reforms in SB 1024. The time has come to take action at the state level to promote the development of more affordable housing. Although I've heard over the last couple of months that local zoning boards and commissions are in the best position to address this issue, I think all the evidence disputes this assertion. In my own town, the last affordable housing unit was completed twelve years ago, and without some sort of state intervention, I would not be surprised if we see no further activity for another twelve years. In the meantime, we continue to hear residents talk about a lack of affordable housing for grown children of current residents. Some of these very same young people are volunteers in our fire/ambulance services. We also hear of older residents aging out of their homes and unable to remain in the community due to affordability issues. Regarding diversity, both economically and racially, the lack of it in our communities is painfully apparent and the shortage of affordable housing is clearly a contributing factor. The time to act to address these issues is now!

Tim Hildner

Lyme, CT