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Esteemed Chairs Casanova and McCarthy Vahey Members of the Planning and Development Committee

Please reject Senate Bill No.1024 and House Bill No.6613.

I fully support WestCOG's decision to fight the passing of both of these bills for the reasons articulated in their letter. They certainly echo the sentiment across the board of both Democrats and Republicans who I have spoken to regarding these bills. A Jamaican friend of mine has worked 2-4 jobs for the past 10 years since arriving here in Connecticut. He worked and saved for "The American Dream" of buying a home. He decided to rent it out and will be negatively impacted by these bills, as well as SB171 and SB172. It is important to remember that many landlords are working hard just to make ends meet, and look forward to the day they will have a small profit. Many landowners are seeking the "The American Dream". We need to protect our newcomers and our American born.

State intervention is not needed. While accounting for only 16% of the state's population, this region has created a whopping 48% of new affordable housing units in Connecticut.

You are our representatives. Please be brave and vote on our behalf. I am aware of the same rhetoric now in Connecticut that I heard in the beginnings of the New York "escape" to places where the people's voices are heard and followed by their representatives.

Thank you for your time and consideration, Barbara Howard