

*To:* CT General Assembly Planning & Development Committee

*From:* Sonya Huber/Stratford, CT

*Re:* SB 1024, An Act Concerning Zoning Authority, Certain Design Guidelines, Qualifications Of Certain Land Use Officials And Certain Sewage Disposal Systems

*Date:* March 15, 2021

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

Hello there,

I have lived in Connecticut for ten years, and I have taken quite a bit of time to educate myself on the long history of discriminatory zoning in this area. I believe that the physical layout of our communities shapes our mindsets and our lives, and we need a future where we all have exposure to a more diverse range of people. This will help all of us and will spread out opportunity and social contacts to re-weave the social fabric, which up until now has been deeply affected by decades of segregation. In my reading I have also learned that opening up our communities leads to gains for low-income people without affecting the quality of life of those already in higher-wealth communities, as has been the case with successful residential desegregation in New Jersey.

For that reason, I am very much in support of SB 1024, and I have been active with the Open Communities Alliance as well as receiving information from Desegregate CT. I live in Stratford, which is a diverse community, and I very much value the experiences that my son and my whole family have had here. I believe this will also set up Connecticut for a more prosperous future for all.

Thank you very much for your time,

Sincerely,  
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