

*To:* CT General Assembly Planning & Development Committee

*From:* Marcel Knudsen / New Haven

*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:

I am submitting my voice in favor of SB 1024. This bill marks a step forward in desegregating our state and addressing the problems of housing affordability, racial inequity, and climate change. This bill is not just important for equity, it will make Connecticut a more appealing and affordable place to live for many residents.

As someone who has commuted and rented off the Metro-North line, I have often asked why Connecticut does not have more affordable housing and vibrant areas near train stations. After I looked through DesegregateCT's Zoning Atlas, I realized why. Many of the neighborhoods surrounding train stations are blocked off for single family homes or commercial zones, and housing units that can be rented are few and far between. SB 1024 would help increase the availability of rental housing, and revitalize key Connecticut corridors.