

**TESTIMONY ON SB1024:**

*AN ACT CONCERNING ZONING AUTHORITY, CERTAIN DESIGN GUIDELINES, QUALIFICATIONS OF CERTAIN LAND USE OFFICIALS AND CERTAIN SEWAGE DISPOSAL SYSTEMS.*

via email to [pdtestimony@cga.ct.gov](mailto:pdtestimony@cga.ct.gov)

By: Tessy Kurian

***March 15, 2021***

Dear Chairman Cassano, Chairwoman McCarthy Vahey, Vice Chairman Needleman, Vice Chairwoman Goupil, Ranking Member Senator Hwang, Ranking Member Zullo, and Distinguished Members of the Connecticut General Assembly Joint Planning and Development Committee:

Thank you for allowing testimony on this important piece of legislation. It speaks well to your character as individuals and leaders that you are open to hearing from CT residents on this subject.

To preface, I love living in my single family home and dispute characterizations that declare this bill to “end single family zoning as we know it.” I moved to Simsbury in 2007, with my husband and son. Our move was principally motivated by a desire to live in a high-quality school district. More families in our state deserve the right to live in towns like mine, which has engaged in exclusionary zoning practices for decades. It should not be a precondition in CT’s suburbs that you have to buy or rent a single family home - with excess space that you might not even need - to be a part of our community. SB 1024 solves this problem by eliminating the bloated regulations that prevent the private sector from meeting the demands of the housing market.

As a conservative, I am baffled by right-wing opposition to this bill. SB 1024 cuts regulations and enables the free market to build. It expands the tax base by bringing more people to this state. As one of the states with the highest taxes in the country, it is important to bring more revenue to the state government so we can remedy this problem. If we want to stand for working people, we need to pass this bill. Doing so will decrease the cost of living and let the markets work.

Current zoning codes infringe on our liberties. My mother-in-law lives with us. I should have the option to build an “accessory dwelling unit” if I so choose. SB 1024 enhances the personal liberties of every single CT resident.

I did not pick Connecticut as our new home by rolling the dice. We chose this state because it is special. We chose this state because of the excellent public schools and the gorgeous natural scenery. SB 1024 augments these natural strengths of the state. It protects the state’s land and will help people from all different backgrounds.

Speaking as a mother, I would very much like to see my two children and extended family come back here after they have completed their education. It simply is not affordable for them to do so, with the real estate market in the state being the way that it is. Pass SB 1024 for Connecticut’s families.

Sincerely  
Tessy Kurian