

Kristin Toretta Lee  
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March 14, 2021

Re. Testimonial Opposition Letter: NO to SB 1024, SB 171, and SB 172

To Whom it May Concern:

We are writing on behalf of the Lee family, Connecticut residents, to convey our vehement opposition to SB 1024, SB 171, and SB 172.

It is a core tenet of the democracy of the United States that citizens feel their views are represented. As an imperative pillar of that tenet, citizens benefit from the freedom of choice when it comes to where they will reside, so they can participate in the governance of that locale and its representation.

Our decision to reside in southern Connecticut, is heavily influenced by the governance of this region and the ability for citizens to control core aspects of the way and means in which they live. The fundamental freedom to choose where to reside based on local governance is a core pinnacle of our nation, and of this state; that fundamental freedom would be undermined by this sleight of bills.

Decisions around zoning, residential/commercial design, land use, and sewage disposal, have been long-standing features of local governance. Similarly, tax assessments related to housing compositions, and taxes on real property have been primarily preserved at a local level, and are a core benefit to choosing which town in which to reside in Connecticut.

With at least one household commuter to New York City, we selected the location of our home in large dependence on the governance of this community. We chose Connecticut for its maintenance of local governance. We selected a home with a strong public school system, in walking distance to our local train station, so we could raise our family in a community that supported our educational and economic needs. We participate actively in civic matters, we support our local organizations, and we are committed members of preserving our democratic freedoms. These bills challenge the decisions we have made as a family, starving our efforts to participate in the governance of our own community and future livelihoods, and they do not represent the true facets of this unique and diverse State that we support.

Further, the recent trend, which has seen thousands of New York City residents choosing to reside in southern Connecticut, would be fundamentally challenged by these bills. These families are choosing to live in our community and region based on fundamental freedom of choice, and similar decisions to the priorities we shared. These bills will undoubtedly cause a

decline in the influx of these families, and a movement to pursue residence outside Connecticut's borders; we will lose the community and potential economic benefits of additional residents.

Finally, the fact that Connecticut legislators are trying to push through such impactful bills during the global pandemic is a disgrace. Our local lawmakers should be focused on promoting the health and safety of this State's citizens, and perform their jobs with the dignity we know is bestowed upon them as representatives.

Sincerely,

Kristin Toretta Lee

Russell Collin Lee