

To: CT General Assembly Planning & Development Committee
Date: March 15, 2021

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

My name is Shannon Leslie and I am a resident of New Haven, CT. I am writing in support of SB1024, "An Act Concerning Zoning Authority, Certain Design Guidelines, Qualifications of Certain Land Use Officials and Certain Sewage Disposal Systems."

I am one of the majority of Connecticut residents who support "clear, more uniform" zoning and support the work of the more than 60 organizations that have worked together to develop SB 1024. Housing is a human right and access to affordable, quality housing is essential to the future of our state. Zoning reform is critical to build a stronger and more equitable Connecticut. I grew up in California where zoning laws limited housing types in certain areas and it is clear that these restrictions drove up housing prices, contributed to segregated neighborhoods, and weakened communities. Housing prices and the lack of accessible housing options are a major reason many people I know are leaving the state. Connecticut must make changes now to ensure our state has a different future. It is our responsibility to ensure that there is access to affordable housing and multiple housing types across the state that have equitable access.

I support SB 1024 because it promotes a more equitable and environmentally sustainable future for Connecticut. SB 1024 creates more housing to reduce cost, leads to a more diverse housing stock, and helps save farmland and forest from destruction. This bill helps to empower towns across the state to develop existing infrastructure rather than increasing sprawl. It promotes transit-oriented development encouraging and enabling the use of public transit. Personally, I know all of these improvements will make Connecticut an even more desirable place to live.

It is time for the state legislature to act on zoning reform to build a stronger, cleaner, and more equitable Connecticut. That is why I am writing in support of SB 1024.

Thank you,

Shannon Leslie

Resident of New Haven, CT