

Members of the Planning and Development Committee,

I urge you to vote against SB 1024. This bill is intended to increase diversity in towns across Connecticut, but it will fail to do this because it does not address the underlying socio-economic factors that contribute to Connecticut's demographics. Worse, this bill is an ill conceived attempt at trying to central plan Connecticut's development, and it will come at an immense cost to communities across the state.

Instead of offering grants or property tax relief to communities in an effort to entice them to develop responsible plans for affordable housing, this bill takes planning decisions out of the hands of local Planning and Zoning Commissions, which will result in state bureaucrats ignoring the myriad of geographic, infrastructure, and economic factors that vary from town to town and must be considered for successful development projects. The result will be expensive and unwanted projects that will succeed only in dividing locals against the state government.

But, to be quite frank, that distrust and division will be well deserved. SB 1024 starts with the assumption that PZCs, made up of elected officials entrusted by members of their communities, are irresponsible and close minded. It then makes the horribly misguided assumption that the state knows better. Local Connecticut leaders don't need babysitting from Hartford, they need a partner that can help them tackle the issues we all face - and SB 1024 says that the state isn't interested in that partnership.

Sincerely,
Jacob Marie