

Dear Planning & Development Committee,

We strongly support SB 1024.

We have lived in rural New Milford for over 30 years working as clinical psychologist and psychiatrist respectively.

From that experience two things stand out regarding housing:

First, the struggles people have in this town — not wealthy like adjacent towns—to find affordable housing are debilitating causing anxiety, depression and draining the resources of parents in rearing their children, and providing the stability necessary for their growth and of whole families.

Second, it is boring, “unreal” to not see many people of color in this town. School kids miss the opportunity to interact with different folks and different ways which is what makes life richer, decreases polarization and enrich and enlivens democracy. Unaffordable housing contributes greatly to this lack of diversity here and to racism everywhere.

This de facto segregation in CT must end.
We want all kinds of folks in our back yards.
Please pass this bill.
Thank you,

Justine McCabe, PhD
John Battista, MD
Riverbend Psychiatric Associates
88 Cherniske Road
New Milford, CT 06776