

To: CT General Assembly Planning & Development Committee

From: John C. McGannon, Westbrook

Re: SB 1024, An Act Concerning Zoning Authority, Certain Design Guidelines, Qualifications Of Certain Land Use Officials And Certain Sewage Disposal Systems

Date: March 15, 2021

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

I am writing to express to you my strong support of SB 1024 and to urge you to pass this important legislation. We know that housing in Connecticut is too expensive for a significant portion of the population. Inequities and inefficiencies in our zoning laws stifle diversity, impede the urgent policies needed to address environmental challenges, lead to sprawl & the loss of fast-disappearing farm and woodland, and make our state a less desirable place in which to live and have a business. We are presented here with a golden opportunity to make positive change and address these pressing issues without spending exorbitant amounts of taxpayer dollars to have to identify and implement steps that will strengthen & enhance our communities. The heavy lifting has been done, the solutions are here before us, and it is long overdue that we all speak together for approaches that are more fair, more just, and more lasting for all residents of Connecticut. This is a great start: SB1024 will enable local governments to grow & diversify. It makes good sense in so many ways, and I urge you all to pass it.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my views on this bill.

John McGannon
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