

To the Connecticut General Assembly Planning and Development Committee

Re: SB 1024, An Act Concerning Zoning Authority, Certain Design Guidelines, Qualifications Of Certain Land Use Officials And Certain Sewage Disposal Systems  
March 12, 2021

Chairman Casanova, Chairwoman McCarthy Vahey, Vice Chairman Needle,an, Vice Chairwoman Goupil, Ranking Member Senator Hwang, Ranking Member Zello, and Members of the Committee:

I am a resident of Newtown, writing in support of SB 1024. I have lived in Newtown for 35 years, and in that time, I've seen Newtown change from a rural to a suburban community, with larger and larger houses on large lots. One thing that hasn't changed is the amount of affordable housing. Newtown has a walkable shopping district, and multi family senior housing has been built in this area, but there aren't housing options for young families or people who can't afford Newtown's large single family homes. The current zoning regulations have kept Newtown a racially segregated community.

Newtown is the poster child for systemic racism in housing and education in our state. 2/3 of Fairfield County towns are more than 85% white; this is no accident. Our state also features 3 cities that are amongst the poorest in the nation. The "character" so cherished by Newtown residents is code for whiteness, but it prevents Newtown from experiencing the energy and talent that a variety of people could bring.

The current restrictive zoning laws are exclusionary. To foster a society that gives opportunities to all people, we need to have zoning laws that encourage more affordable housing throughout the state. Connecticut's aging population and segregated communities don't promote a healthy vibrant economy for the future.

I support SB 1024 because I want to see a thriving economy and a thriving Connecticut in the future.

Thank you.

Edward Randall  
Newtown