

Subject: Say NO to HB 6107, 6611, 6612, 6613 and SB 1024, 1026, 1027

To Whom it May Concern:

Connecticut is not, and should not be, a collection of one-size-fits-all towns. People and families have individual tastes, wants and needs and thus are attracted to different types of settings. Connecticut's towns currently offer these different settings—from a more rural setting, to a more metropolitan setting, and everything in between, not to mention the historical character that Connecticut towns treasure and preserve. The local people, who understand their town's needs and wants, should be the ones responsible for maintaining the town they chose, and they currently are—through their town's governing boards, councils and commissions.

Our jobs brought my husband and me to Connecticut 32 years ago, and we chose Newtown as our home due to its historic Main St, its open spaces and its more rural character. We felt right at home among people who treasured the same things, and happily raised our family here. Now in our second Newtown home, we love living on our quiet 3.5 acres of woods (3 acre single-family zoning) with all sorts of nature at our doorstep.

While Newtown has changed greatly over these 32 years, including more cluster-housing and apartments, the local government has managed to maintain what people love about Newtown because they have their finger on Newtown's pulse, and they live here, too. If the state would have the ability to change what we love about our town, and have the ability to perhaps decide that a big apartment building will be placed right next door to our oasis in the woods, that would likely be the final straw to have us leave Connecticut.

Zoning decisions should not be made at the state level. These bills are an over-reach of the state government. I ask you to trust the people of Connecticut to make zoning decisions at the local level. Decisions made by and for the residents of that town—those who know best their town's needs and wants—are the best decisions.

Sincerely,
Cathy Reiss
Newtown, CT

A member of Newtown's Legislative Council, but speaking for myself