

*To:* CT General Assembly Planning & Development Committee

*From:* Faye Richardson, Old Lyme

*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:

Dear Committee Members, I am writing in support of SB 1024. It makes sense to me because the need is great for many reasons:

- My husband and I are in our 80s, and the day will come when we have to have live-in help. There are NO affordable houses to rent or buy in our town, which means that the person who helps us will likely have to drive from New London or New Haven. How wonderful it would be if there were an affordable place close by.
- We are blessed with a volunteer fire department, and yet the very people we need to serve now and into the future – young people!! – can't afford to live here. It is a great embarrassment and a great tragedy. We must do better!!!
- We have a fabulous refugee resettlement committee in Lyme/Old Lyme, and the ONLY issue it faces is affordable housing. There simply aren't affordable rentals, and without the generosity of individuals who give a substantial break on rent we would not be able to welcome refugees who bring diversity and friendship to our communities.
- The residents of our town are aging, and as we get old we shop less because our needs are few. As a result many of the businesses in town have closed. We NEED new people to keep our economy perking, but we aren't going to get them if people can't afford to live here.

Please consider my testimony when you make decisions on SB 1024.

Thank you, Faye Richardson