

To: CT General Assembly Planning & Development Committee

From: Sam Rosenthal, Guilford

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 in support of SB 1024. For decades, exclusionary zoning practices at the local level have intentionally stymied progress toward equal opportunity in housing and have resulted in extreme geographic segregation by both race and socioeconomic status in many parts of Connecticut. I believe Desegregate CT's platform, which is contained within this bill, will begin to alleviate these injustices and bring us closer to a truly inclusive society.

Many of the bill's proposals, such as zoning for ADUs, transit-oriented development, reduced parking minimums, and form-based codes, are already being implemented in parts of the state and across the country with much success. Proposals such as these not only encourage housing equity, but also promote walkable and vibrant communities that support public health, transportation, and economic development goals. I believe that the adoption of SB 1024 will ultimately benefit residents, businesses, and communities throughout the state.

Where we grow up and live determines in large part how we relate to one another—especially those who are different from us—and shapes our understanding of the world. When we live in segregated communities, when we only ever see people who look or think or act like us, we lose sight of the ways in which we are all connected. Recent events have brought into plain view the devastating consequences of living in a segregated society, including the dehumanization of society's most vulnerable members.

To live in a segregated society is a choice we make, and we can just as easily unmake it. I believe SB 1024 represents a crucial step in the right direction—toward a Connecticut that offers equal opportunity to all.

Thank you,
Sam Rosenthal