

Dear Planning & Development Committee,

Please see attached for my written testimony in favor of SB 1024.

As a resident of Old Lyme, I witnessed the violent reaction of residents when The Hope Partnership offered a plan to build Affordable Housing in Old Lyme, near Exit 70 on I-95 approximately 2 years ago. I attended all of the town meetings in the Middle School Auditorium. It was shocking to hear the displays of racism couched saying that the plan was planned for an unsuitable parcel of land. NIMBY was the outcry. One resident, with a sigh said, I don't want to drive over the Baldwin Bridge our to our exit and find our a traffic jam because residents from this housing complex would blocking route #156. When the Hope Partnership pulled out, they had to raise a lot of money to pay their legal fees caused by law suits filed against them and the plan.

Our town officials have done little to move another plan forward. They are now asking for residents to be part of a committee for Affordable Housing. This simply puts off a decision. Without a zoning change to allow for multi-family dwellings, we will not move forward to become a more inclusive community. We need young people to move into our town. We need more students in the public school. We need Affordable Housing for Seniors and we need to welcome new residents. Please support SB 1024 necessary for a robust future for our town.

Sandra Y. Rueb

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