

*To:* CT General Assembly Planning & Development Committee

*From:* JESSICA RYAN, SIMSBURY, CT

*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 strongly support SB 1024. It is an evidence-based bill that will take important steps to increase availability of housing and types of housing.

It came to my attention that Simsbury's Zoning Commission is submitting testimony that does not represent my attitudes, beliefs, or values. I am dedicated to advocating for a more inclusive town as it pertains to race, age, ability, and class. Diversity in housing benefits us individually, community-wide, and systemically. More housing options can help get us there.

We know the history of housing in the United States is riddled with inequity and segregation. It is a complex, human-made problem that we should be actively working together to solve. Desegregate CT is doing the work to deconstruct the complexities and offer solutions, why would we say no? As you respond to this question, please consider your privilege and how you may or may not have benefitted from current and past housing systems.

I am grateful to see the Committee considering policy that proposes zoning reform in favor of equity.