

To: CT General Assembly Planning & Development Committee

From: MELISSA SMITH, 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.

I recently found out that the Simsbury Zoning Commission is submitting testimony opposing this bill which does not represent my personal beliefs. I've lived in Simsbury for 5 years and as much as I love the quaint town that Simsbury is I've always struggled with the lack of diversity here. As a mother I want to raise my children in a community that values equitable solutions to improving the inclusivity of individuals and families no matter their class, race, ability, or age.

Zoning reform is a large component in accomplishing this. The SB 1024 bill will help provide a variety of housing options in our town which can benefit the community both socially and economically. The bill also seeks to equip our zoning leaders with the proper skills they need to make more equitable decisions for our town which I will always advocate for. SB 1024 is a step in the right direction, a step toward much needed systemic and statewide change here in CT.

Thank you to Desegregate CT for doing the leg work.