
MEMORANDUM

TO: PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

FROM: BRUCE THOMPSON

SUBJECT: H.B.s 6611, 6612, 6613, 6107; & S.B.s 1024, 1026, 1027

DATE: MARCH 14, 2021

CC:

I am strongly opposed to the proposed legislation up for public comment before your committee. I feel that removing local control of zoning and placing it in the hands of the state would be detrimental to the interests of the citizens of each town. Voting town residents currently have the power, through their elected zoning boards, to control the environment in which they chose to live. Relinquishing that power to the state would do nothing but harm.

Additionally, many of the line items included in the proposed legislation would, in effect, turn the entire state into a city. They would do so by increasing housing and population density; adding unneeded and costly infrastructure (the state cannot maintain what it has, let alone more), environmental degradation, and social problems. Connecticut already has the fourth highest population density in the U.S. Personally, if I wanted to live in New Jersey, I would move there.

These bills, purporting to create a means to increase the supply of affordable housing are a giveaway to the building industry and its ancillaries, and do nothing to address the root problem of affordable housing: well-paying jobs. “According to a report by the National Low Income Housing Coalition, there isn’t a single American state in which a person working full time for minimum wage can afford a one-bedroom apartment at the fair market rent.”¹ To me, it would prove more effective to improve a person’s lot by paying him or her a decent wage, than to trash our state by building more houses and the infrastructure to support them.

In closing, I have sworn that I will never vote for a Republican. However, depending on the outcome of these bills, I *will* change my mind.

Respectfully yours,

Bruce Thompson
17 Milan Road
Woodbridge, CT 06525

¹ *The New Yorker*, March 15, 2021, “Trailer-Park Trades” p. 32