

I firmly stand against the proposed zoning bills HB6107, HB6611, HB6612, HB6613, SB1024, SB1026 & SB1027 being debated. Zoning is a local issue, municipalities know better than the State what works best for their communities. Not to mention the state should be focused on making CT more competitive and business friendly, not expanding government departments to study and oversee zoning changes (more red tape). If you want to make municipalities more affordable you can increase vouchers for those who work in a town where they are unable to find suitable housing and offer tax incentives to builders who include below market units. You can give cities grants to expand affordable housing. Please understand that even hard working folks cannot always afford to live where they work, that is not a given in life. Many of us would love to live in Greenwich, but we do not have the means. It does not mean we have a right. School choice is also something that would go a long way in helping people.

This is a horrible bill, an overreach of government. One size does not fit all and residents of a community deserve to have input and make decisions on what works best for where they live. As a taxpayer in this state, I have a right to choose where I wish to live, that includes the city, town and neighborhood based on my means. I expect to have some say in matters, be able to hold my local officials accountable and also expect zoning to be uniform and implemented based on conformity and common sense. Stop taking away our rights. P.S. Stamford has a lot of mixed income properties and that seems to work really well. The best motivation is tax incentives to builders to offer a percentage of affordable housing units. Use the carrot not the stick. Focus on fixing the state (attracting jobs) not expanding government powers and control and stay out of our suburbs and decisions that are best made at the local level. This is not the way to achieve affordable housing, which we all support.

Cordially,
Susan Brace
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