

For the following reasons, I am writing to urge **defeat** of Bills HB-6107 and SB-1027, which seek to place local zoning decisions in the hands of Hartford bureaucrats who only care about partisan politics in the form of restricting, controlling and taxing citizens of the state. This is not the way to help Connecticut.

1. Connecticut is a Home Rule State, which means that municipalities have the ability to pass laws to govern themselves as they see fit. These two Bills are designed to stop local decision making, public hearings, input and other relevant information from being shared to a community's stakeholders when it comes to zoning. As such, the bills are antithetical to the principles of Home Rule, which use local zoning and planning processes to balance private property rights, the community's interests, demands on infrastructure, housing needs and economic growth.
2. Special interests cannot create a one-size-fits-all proposal to change local zoning laws. What you do with land has profound implications and long-term consequences. Hartford bureaucrats' effort to control use of our land is bad politics. Local control and local input enable neighbors and the local community to provide beneficial suggestions, to identify errors, and to maximize community buy-in on zoning proposals.
3. Lawmakers who were elected to be our voices in Hartford must respect the notion of Home Rule and the accountability of local government. Local zoning decisions empower residents, taxpayers and local officials to carefully tailor the needs of our communities and our unique geographies, economies and housing needs.
4. Significantly, one of the stated purposes of Bills HB-6107 and SB-1027 is to promote the purposes of the federal Fair Housing Act ("FHA"). The FHA basically prohibits discrimination in housing. The Obama administration took language from the Act and tortured it to come up with a massive power grab via Executive Branch rulemaking authority, aided by New Jersey Senator Cory Booker who looked for more ways to broaden federal authority over localities. The Obama rule, "Affirmatively Furthering the Fair Housing Act" (AFFHA), constituted a power grab over any suburban county or municipality that requested a HUD (Housing and Urban Development) grant. The feds would then seize control of all of the governance of that county or municipality that previously was local in nature: density, zoning, transportation, road building, etc., requiring low income housing to be built throughout the county or municipality and minimizing single family zoning. The feds would then sue to enforce their authority. They used Westchester County as the guinea pig, contending that the county was "too white," even though Westchester qualifies as the fourth most diverse county in America.
5. The Trump administration, with Ben Carson as the HUD Secretary, ceased enforcement of the AFFHA rule. Biden promised to ramp up enforcement of the rule as part of his plan to institute totalitarian authority over all aspects of life in the US. Connecticut should not be complicit in this effort.

6. Bills HB-6107 and SB-1027 are un-American, deleterious to Connecticut, and should be scrapped.

Sincerely,

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