

Senator Cassano, Representative McCarthy Vahey, Senator Hwang, Representative Zullo, and distinguished members of the Planning and Development Committee, thank you for reading my testimony on H.B. No. 6107, H.B. and No. 6613, to support efforts to increase housing opportunity in Connecticut. My name is Patrick McKenna and I am a resident of Middletown, CT.

Along with many others in the state, I know that safe, affordable housing is critical for our state's residents and our economy. When our state's residents have stable housing; their economic and health outcomes improve.

I respectfully request that the committee Support H.B. No. 6107 An Act Concerning the Reorganization of the Zoning Enabling Act and the Promotion of Municipal Compliance. H.B. 6107 promotes the state's policy goal of encouraging all municipalities to plan for multi-family housing and housing affordable to low-and moderate-income families. Further, it requires zoning regulations affirmatively further the purposes of the federal Fair Housing Act and removes the highly subjective "character of the district" consideration, which has been used as the basis of discriminatory zoning decisions. All reasonable aspects of "character" are fully covered by other sections of § 8-2, including considerations of historic preservation, environmental impact, density, scale, location, and the suitability of uses.

Support H.B. 6613 An Act Concerning Accessory Apartments, Middle Housing and Multifamily Housing Permitting ADUs and small multifamily housing more broadly and without undue restrictions will promote the incremental growth of our lower cost housing supply, bringing new residents to town centers and transit station areas while continuing to allow municipalities to control the physical and site characteristics of their community through their zoning ordinance, the health code, building code, and other regulations.

Thank you for reading my testimony and for your work to make Connecticut a better, fairer and more inclusive place for all residents.

Regards

Patrick
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