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DO NOT PROCEED with these bills.

KEEP LOCAL ZONING decisions LOCAL.

KEEP OFF OUR LANDS.

Connecticut's towns and cities successfully use local zoning and planning processes to balance private property rights, the community's interests, demands on infrastructure, housing needs and economic growth.

NO governing body is better suited to assess the community's interests than the towns and cities themselves. HARTFORD is NOT where these decisions should be taken.

DON'T stop local decision making. HARTFORD has no right to prevent public hearings, local input and relevant information from being shared to a community's stakeholders when it comes to zoning.

Don't forget that for decades local decision making and local input had enabled neighbors, local businesses, local communities and their local officials to provide beneficial suggestions, to tailor the zoning laws to the specific needs of these communities, to identify errors and maximize community buy-in on zoning proposals.

It is a mistake to think that we can create a one-size, fits all proposal to change our local zoning laws. We will end up with inadequate proposals with no support from the local community.

Local zoning decisions empower all of us. DON'T take that away from Connecticut's residents and voters. Democrats will be facing serious backlash from Democratic voters, myself included if they support these bills. It is too bureaucratic, authoritarian and ineffective to gain wide support even among Democratic voters.

Do not move forward with these two bills.

Thanks,

Estelle ROUFFIAC