

March 14, 2012

To the Planning and Development Committee:

Maintaining the well-being of Connecticut and its citizens requires a responsible overview that recognizes the role played by different regions of the state. Rural towns rich in wetlands, streams, reservoirs, and forests are critical to the well-being of the state and its residents in protecting the essentials of life: clean air and clean water. Given the population density in the state's cities, the role of local zoning boards and regulations is critical in allowing growth and development that meets the practical and safety needs of residents while protecting the natural resources essential to the health and well-being of every Connecticut citizen.

While affordable housing should be a state goal, this must be accomplished in locations with adequate infrastructure, services, and access to public transportation. Not all locations are suitable, and it would be irresponsible to sacrifice woodlands, sensitive buffer areas, and wetlands that serve Connecticut residents' by ensuring their air and water is pure. For those reasons, we OPPOSE: HB 6107, HB 6611, HB6612, HB 6613, SB 1024, SB 1026, and SB 1027. Zoning must stay in the hands of local boards and commissions.

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