

Dear Representatives,

Consistent with efforts to regionalize education and create a state-wide property tax, there are multiple proposals designed to eliminate 'home rule' and local zoning rights by giving Hartford the power to establish state-wide zoning laws.

These proposals are misguided. Instead of common-sense, market-driven solutions to provide diversified housing, overseen by locally elected and accountable representatives, Hartford politicians would issue state-mandated decrees and take control of local zoning.

Many towns have developed zoning strategies to increase affordable housing. Darien has inclusionary zoning laws, if a developer wants to build more than five units, 12 percent of them must be below market rate. New Canaan has a fund of developers' fees to sponsor additional affordable housing. Fairfield has a Housing Trust Fund to invest in affordable housing and adopted inclusionary zoning laws requiring developments with more than 10 housing units to set aside 10% of the units as affordable.

We expect you to vote No on every legislation that gives local decision-making rights to a state or regional body. And we expect you to speak out publicly against this movement to fundamentally change home rule.

Sincerely,  
Joseph Colaprico  
21 Greenfield Drive, Weston CT 06883