



Supporters of SB 1024 Dominated Public Hearing

UPDATE: For the last twenty four hours, supporters of [SB 1024 \(DesegregateCT Zoning Reforms\)](#) shared passionate, well-researched, and compelling testimony outlining how zoning reform will make Connecticut more economically prosperous, equitable, and environmentally sustainable. **Over 70% of those who testified on SB 1024 during the hearing endorsed the bill.** Many more supporters did not have the chance to speak, but submitted incredible written testimony.

We will send more information this week about the upcoming vote and what else you can do to help!

SOME HIGHLIGHTS (follow us on [twitter](#) for more):

“Let's put Connecticut first,” **said Sara Bronin, Founder and Lead Organizer of Desegregate CT** early in the hearing. She explained that zoning reform will “work to generate economic activity, to meet housing needs, to address the issues that you're going to hear for the rest of the night from people all over the state telling you why housing matters and why it's important.” Over the course of many subsequent hours, committee members heard just that.

Joe DeLong, Executive Director of the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities, **noted,** “The state and advocates should continue to find ways to encourage and work with local communities. It is refreshing to note that SB 1024 is an example of this collaborative

work, and we encourage the Committee to support it.”

Jah-Marley Wright, Colchester community activist: "I'm here today as a black man from a predominantly white town ... I'm proud of living in an inclusive neighborhood that is becoming more inclusive everyday. But we need to back that up with action. Ultimately, we need to desegregate Connecticut, and that includes considering how we use our land."

"I am not out to build a lot, but I am out to have some of everything because I think that's the way we help everybody," **Brooklyn First Selectman Richard Ives added.** "We need a little push."

Emmeline Harrigan, Co-Chair of Government Relations at the Connecticut Chapter of the American Planning Association, explained that "as relates to Accessory Dwelling Units and some of the Transit Oriented Development and mixed-use commercial districts, as a planner, these are all planning concepts that are... foundational elements of what make great places throughout the United States."

John Guskowski, AICP Lead Planner: "The goals expressed by 1024 all represent best practices for great communities. These are tools and techniques to increase the vitality, increase the housing availability, & increase the community equity in communities across the state of CT."

Jim Perras, CEO of Homebuilders and Remodelers Association of Connecticut testified that with model form-based zoning codes for towns to adapt and adopt, "that is where the municipality can really get involved and that is where the residents can really take action and shape their downtowns and transit-oriented areas to look the way they want them to look."

Kevin Alvarez, Director of Legislative Affairs for the City of New Haven, emphasized, "Passing this legislation is a moral imperative. Multifamily housing is the pathway to economic stability, particularly for communities of color."

Antonia Edwards, "Don't bar [people] because of the color of their skin . . . If people aren't doing on this their own, and are making up excuses as to why 'people of color' shouldn't come to their community, then the State has to get involved."

Middletown Planning and Zoning Chair Stephen Devoto told the committee, "As P&Z Chair, I want to foster economic growth, protect the environment, and ensure our housing matches the needs of our residents. Sometimes those things are in conflict. I rarely see a proposal [like SB 1024] that supports all three of those perspectives."
