



vermont affordable housing coalition

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Independent Living

April 14, 2021

Dear Chair Sheldon and Members of the House Natural Resources, Fish & Wildlife Committee:

I am writing in support of S.101 - An act relating to promoting housing choice and opportunity in smart growth areas. Before advancing the bill, however, the Coalition asks that you modify it to ensure housing affordability is ensured as housing growth is fostered in the core areas of our communities. Specifically, we hope you will consider amendments to be recommended by the Vermont Housing & Conservation Board.

We think the Bill should underscore (and explicitly state) the importance of housing affordability, and that for municipalities to receive state grants, their respective bylaw updates should highlight the importance of housing affordability for low-income households as a municipal goal to advance. As we have seen over the past year, there is a direct relationship between housing and individual and community health. Advancing inclusive, affordable housing has never been more critical. This is a great opportunity to require municipalities to directly address affordability, which will result in stronger, more inclusive and vibrant communities.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Cindy Reid

Steering Committee Chair

Vermont Affordable Housing Coalition