

I would like to express a major concern with the Omnibus Housing bill as it stands. To automatically qualify lands within municipal water and sewer districts for housing makes no sense unless you have researched how towns that have established conservation districts will be impacted. I know that at least in So Burlington, such a move would undo efforts to provide some environmental protection in the face of relentless growth.

To do this is convenient, I realize, but you would be creating a larger, long range crisis in an effort to solve a smaller, short term one. This is not a responsible, or well-thought out approach. You are saddling a future generation with a problem that could be insurmountable since natural environment once it's gone, is gone for good. Whereas existing housing can always be replaced with new and better units, ad infinitum.

Another consideration -- this bill seems to take the approach of "let's pack them in." I agree we need more housing, but to turn Chittenden Co into one large densely populated city with minimal natural lands is to condemn people to a lower quality of life. It will be the urban pressure cooker that plagues so many unbelievable American cities. Think about the implications of this.

I ask you to rethink this bill with these points in mind.

Thank you,

Jim White
Shelburne