

To Honorable Senators and Representatives,

From: John Bossange

Re: H38, Omnibus Housing Bill

Date: February 14, 2023

With respect to the omnibus Housing bill (H38), as proposed by Senator Kesha Ram, please include an allowance for South Burlington's years of work creating a series of local regulations to protect our natural lands and at the same time promote housing in appropriately zoned areas.

The City put in place Natural Resource Protection Lands along with Transfer Development Rights, and Conservation Planned Unit Development options for landowners who own land that contain natural resources.

We have done this to prevent excessive sprawl into rural areas of the city and at the same time encourage more core development near our new City Center. We have also tried to conserve as much natural land as still possible to help mitigate the climate crisis now upon us.

We believe we have struck a good operating balance for the future. The current proposed Bill (H38) that allows development along municipal sewer and water lines constructed over 30 years ago before we realized we are now in a "Code Red" crisis will undo all that good work.

Please modify the Bill and respect the wishes of a community committed to conservation, addressing the climate crisis, and understanding the need for mix housing of all kinds. In short, we've been addressing this issue for years and do not want our regulations to be overridden. There are already over 1000 "affordable homes" in the pipeline, and room for 1000 more homes allowable within our local Land Use Regulations.

South Burlington cannot be housing hub for Chittenden County.

Thank you.