

To Whom It Concerns,

H68 purports to be in the best interests of the State by providing a solution to yet another "crisis", this time "Housing", that must be resolved in the interest of equity (equitable outcomes?). The proposed bill reflects the erroneous belief by the progressive/ socialist leadership of Vermont in thinking that only the State and not the towns should be the deciders of our town's futures. This 'we know better than you' philosophy is a complete betrayal of Vermont's past where the towns determined their courses of action and the State provided a solid foundation upon which prosperity could result. Local control with a supportive framework from the State was the Vermont way. Part of the Vermont mystique used to be the perception of Vermonters being as rugged as the granite below their feet. H68 is yet another step in the wrong direction away from the previously deeply rooted sense of independence and self sufficiency towards an ever increasing sense of dependence upon the State to tell us what we "need" to do next. H68 is an excellent example of governmental overreach which by its unsustainable largesse attempts to further condition Vermonters to accept being dependents. H68 is a threat to what most Vermonters have always valued - the freedom from governmental dictate. An old and appropriate saying that suggests how Vermont once was an icon of independence and personal responsibility to ourselves and our immediate communities, offers much food for thought:

"They must hunger in the frost that will not work in the heat".

Yours truly,
Byron Atwood
Proud Barre Town resident