

Thank you for allowing for testimony via email for this crucial topic.

I moved to Vermont 52 years ago in 1971. I have rented housing in Brattleboro for 35 years since 1988. I have worked as the Director of a nonprofit for 27 years. I have no pets, excellent references, savings to pay a deposit and yet found myself last spring in what can only now be called **our collective Vermont housing nightmare**.

Last year I was forced to move from my rental house of 10 years because the owner decided to sell. I've rented all my life, I knew it would be a challenge but quickly learned that it is not just a challenge, **it is a near impossibility because there is infinitesimal available housing**.

What I would like to see **this year**, in addition to the long term continued work of building more housing, are **specific actions now to address the crisis on a state level**:

1. fund dense neighborhoods of tiny houses, pods, modular homes--focus on housing construction that doesn't have the problems and demands of regular construction--fund and ramp up now businesses and factories that create this housing
2. fund creative housing projects using existing large buildings, like the recent project of turning the Brattleboro's Holton Home assisted living building into housing for traveling medical professionals, which in turn frees up local rental housing.
3. pass regulations like Burlington to address the use of short term rental housing that takes rental stock out of circulation
4. create a statewide subsidy fund like Woodstock that gives incentive money to landlords to rent to people who are *already* living and working in Vermont
5. *ease up* on encouraging people to move here. The long term goal for Vermont should be to increase the working population, that is a data driven fact. However, **during this emergency** when we can't house the **current** population, I don't understand why we are inviting *more* people to move here, when **we don't have the literal buildings to house all of us who live here**.

I would be thrilled if my state government took creative action and funding like these examples **this year**, given that we must continue to inevitably wait years for the 'promised' building of new housing.

Thanks for listening,

Susan Parris
Brattleboro