

Dear Sen. Bray, Rep. Bongartz, and other members of the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy,

I am a resident of South Burlington and am strongly opposed to the current drafts of S. 100 and H. 68 due to the proposed draconian imposition of a one-size-fits-all approach to the problem of low-income housing scarcity and the commandeering of local natural resources by the state via zoning and permitting changes that would invariably lead to sprawl and degradation of critical bulwarks against the effects of climate change.

Denser housing is smart. Denser housing that does not take into careful consideration the protection of the natural resources that will be critically important in climate change adaptation and resilience is misguided and dangerous. South Burlington has spent years carefully considering how to balance the competing concerns of more housing and preservation of open land that prevents flooding, provides cooling, filters storm water, and provides innumerable other benefits to the health and wellbeing of our community.

Furthermore, the tax burden in South Burlington is already exorbitant. No convincing evidence has been presented to the public that the proposed legislation will do anything more than price *more* people out of our community due to infrastructure needs that will accrue with larger population: bigger schools, more roads and associated maintenance costs, a larger fire department, more emergency medical services. etc.

Not a single study has been presented to the public, aside from the VT Housing Finance Agency report, *which does not even provide its data sources or methodology*. How are citizens to trust that this study is not highly flawed and biased? Upon what evidence/precedent is the legislature basing its assumptions?

Please consider: unlike the developers, realtors, and others who have a vested interest in providing input on this critical legislation, most citizens are fulltime employed in professions outside municipal affairs, juggling many competing demands in their daily lives. I respectfully ask that the legislature seek commensurate input from communities before steamrolling ahead with this bill, the impacts of which will be manifested over many decades.

Sincerely,

Beth Zigmund
Volunteer: Citizens Climate Lobby, VT Climate and Health Alliance, University of VT Medical Center Sustainability Council