

Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy  
State of Vermont  
Montpelier

February 25, 2023

Re: S.100, An act relating to housing opportunities made for everyone

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to express concern about a bill that I understand to be current business in your Committee, S.100.

I have lived in South Burlington for eight years, Burlington for close to twenty years immediately before that.

I am not an expert regarding either housing or development. However, I do know that my neighbors and I love our nearby open lands – the fresh air, the quiet and solitude, our walks with our dogs. I also know that suburban “sprawl” can ruin the latter, permanently. It is inconceivable to me that the “right” solution to our state’s widely acknowledged housing crisis is for our meadows, fields, woodlands, and other open spaces to be developed. Never? No. But local communities must have the final say regarding which housing and commercial developments they want and which they do not want – of that I am certain. In my view, it is simply wrong to take that power of self-determination away from local communities. In specific, this Bill would jeopardize the protections South Burlington residents and public servants have worked to put in place since 2006 to keep many of our open spaces undeveloped, and it is simply not appropriate for the State to usurp those choices that we have made. There must be firm legislative guardrails in place to support local control. Please keep this in mind when you are considering S.100.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

David J Weissgold (unsigned, to expedite delivery)  
142 Four Sisters Rd  
South Burlington, VT 05403  
dweissgold@retinacentervermont.com