

To: Chair Christopher Bray and Members of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy
Cc: Senators representing the Chittenden Southeast District
Date: March 14, 2023
Subject: S.100

My name is Sandra Dooley. I came to Vermont to attend Middlebury College and have lived in Vermont since 1970, first in Burlington and, as of 1972, in South Burlington. I live in a 2,000 square foot house near Williston Road in a neighborhood in which most lots are one-quarter acre.

I served on South Burlington's City Council from 2007 – 2013. I served on the Champlain Housing Trust board from 2011 – 2020. While I am an advocate for increasing our housing stock locally, regionally, and statewide, I also consider myself an environmentalist. I am a member of the South Burlington Land Trust; Lake Champlain Land Trust; South Hero Land Trust; Vermont Natural Resources Council; and Nature Conservancy; and, for many years, have made significant financial contributions to the Vermont Land Trust. I am a great supporter of balancing the development of housing with the protection of our natural resources.

My comments are solely as a longstanding South Burlington resident. **I strongly urge you to advance S.100 as it was voted out of the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs. .**

You may have heard input from some South Burlington residents that S.100 will hurt natural resources. I strongly disagree.

Please note that S.100 **enables** the development of smaller housing units built on smaller lots. Vermont needs these statewide ground rules for housing development. Plus, they are good for the environment. One part of South Burlington's 2022-adopted zoning regulations applicable to small parcels in our Southeast Quadrant allows no more than one housing unit on an acre of land. This is the recipe for sprawl plus costly housing prices. Also, allowing development in areas with existing municipal water and sewer in South Burlington DOES NOT override our Article 12 zoning regulations that protect wetlands, habitat blocks, river corridors, floodplains, steep slopes or other areas identified as off limits for building/development activity.

Vermont's housing crisis is major and getting worse. While S.100 will not solve this crisis, it will give municipalities much needed authorization to develop more housing that is consistent with our traditional development patterns and respectful of our environment. **Again, I strongly urge you to advance S.100 as it was voted out of the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs. .**

Thank you for considering my comments.

Best regards,

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