



# Town of Shelburne, Vermont

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Members of the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs,

I want to first thank the committee for this opportunity to provide testimony on S.328 and apologize that I cannot be present to provide this testimony myself.

Section 10 of the proposed legislation provides some much needed, and straightforward, language that clarifies some confusion from Acts 47 and 181 and I'm supportive of that section as drafted.

However, I am concerned about the change to the definition of areas "served by municipal sewer and water infrastructure" that is proposed in Section 11 of the bill. While I am generally quite supportive of the reform efforts launched with Acts 47 and 181 and recognize the severe housing shortage the state is in, I worry about the potential impacts of this change.

Firstly, where would the line be drawn? This definition creates a path to an unobstructed expansion of our sewer service area until it aligns with the entire boundaries of our town. Once properties within ¼ mile of infrastructure elect to connect to that infrastructure and then build lines, then properties within a ¼ mile of them would meet the definition and on and on. I am concerned that we would be encouraging true sprawl rather than following planning best practices by concentrating growth in our centers. Additionally, this will take precious limited sewer capacity away from development within our centers and require us to upgrade our wastewater treatment capacity sooner than anticipated. This, along with the fact that the State of Vermont is providing incredibly little funding to support the expansion of municipal wastewater treatment capacity.

I understand the motivation and am supportive of the mission to see more housing development in the state. However, I feel that there are other reforms which would have a more meaningful impact on that goal, especially appeals reform. Should the committee still wish to make a change to this definition I strongly encourage a more surgical solution than what is currently proposed.

Aaron DeNamur, MPA  
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