



Town of Fairfield
Office of the First Selectwoman

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First Selectwoman
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Testimony in Opposition of HB 5429 – AN ACT CONCERNING TRANSIT-ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT

To: Esteemed Chairs Cassano and McCarthy Vahey and members of the Planning and Development Committee:

I am writing to share my strong opposition to the language of raised House Bill 5429. The Town of Fairfield has long supported Transit-Oriented Development (TOD), which is evident through the local TOD plan the Town adopted in 2019 with the Economic Development Commission and its Plan and Zoning Commission. The plan can be viewed [here](#).

Following the Town of Fairfield's adopted TOD plan, three of the four approved TOD projects have been very successful totaling 351 dwelling units readily available for residents. Fairfield will welcome an additional 357 units as the fourth approved project, at our third train station. The Metro Center development is a long awaited project that is expected to break ground this year with a new developer.

Towns and cities across Connecticut have their own regulations and commissions with opportunities for public input to weigh projects and determine feasibility. Fairfield has taken a proactive approach in this regard evidenced by our TOD plan and I strongly oppose legislation that attempts to force mandates and remove local control.

One of the most important processes of government is allowing public comment when major decisions are being deliberated on both local and state levels. HB 5429 would take away local control, and completely remove the public hearing process, silencing the public and TPZ officials.

I oppose this legislation and urge you to consider the consequences. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 5429.

Sincerely,

Brenda Kupchick
First Selectwoman