

DEFEAT HB 1629 & HB 1632 – TWO BILLS ASSOCIATED WITH THE HOUSING PLAN

Our state and local governments in NH are being invaded by unelected, unaccountable, private foundations and lobbying groups with special agendas. They will soon be directing the towns on what they can and cannot build if the Governor has his way. The state has no business attempting to meddle with the housing market, either with mandates on our local boards regarding housing decisions, or tax breaks and other financial rewards for developers. Regardless of how one feels about zoning, it exists in established towns to protect property values, and should be kept within local control. These decisions should never to be handed to regional entities or the state. The results of the Governor's plan would be to reward wealthy developers, at the expense of the permanent residents and homeowners of the middle class.

THE PROBLEM

The Governor's Plan to “fix” the housing "shortage" was announced on October 30, 2019.

<https://www.wmur.com/article/gov-chris-sununu-unveils-bipartisan-plan-to-address-affordable-housing/29642550>

https://www.unionleader.com/news/homes/sununu-task-force-unveil-plan-to-address-housing-shortage/article_ad636410-0721-5e37-93a1-7a38ffdb8af.html

HB 1629:

http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/bill_status/billText.aspx?sy=2020&id=1723&txtFormat=html

HB 1632:

http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/bill_status/billText.aspx?sy=2020&id=1527&txtFormat=html

INFORMATION

<http://bedfordresidents.com/bra/2019/10/31/a-central-planning-nightmare-is-about-to-happen/>

[This article contains documents from the plan itself, other than the bill text]

<http://bedfordresidents.com/bra/2019/09/18/national-group-to-host-housing-forum-in-nh/>

<http://bedfordresidents.com/bra/2019/11/05/coalition-for-supportive-housing-2020-supportive-housing-institute/>

<https://patch.com/new-hampshire/bedford-nh/governors-disastrous-new-plan>

<http://bedfordresidents.com/bra/2019/11/20/letter-to-the-governor/>

https://www.unionleader.com/news/business/whats_working/governor-singles-out-bedford-for-housing-criticism/article_805d5466-f016-5b13-bd83-f0952284898b.html

<http://bedfordresidents.com/bra/2019/12/12/the-governor-mocks-bedford-with-reckless-comments/>

<http://www.cnht.org/news/2019/12/12/is-the-governors-plan-constitutional/>

<https://patch.com/new-hampshire/bedford-nh/aitken-governor-mocks-bedford>

<https://manchesterinklink.com/forum-on-nhs-affordable-housing-shortage-looks-at-possible-solutions/>

https://www.unionleader.com/news/homes/bedford-bites-back-at-governor-s-criticism-of-its-lack/article_1f4f9bfe-315a-50c1-8e1a-4f715bbdf4e4.html

<http://bedfordresidents.com/bra/2019/12/15/town-council-chair-responds-to-governor/>

<http://bedfordresidents.com/bra/2019/12/13/front-page-12-december-12-2019/>

<http://bedfordresidents.com/bra/2019/12/14/josiah-bartlett-no-longer-holds-conservative-views/>

<http://bedfordresidents.com/bra/2019/12/15/wmur-omits-many-details/>

<http://bedfordresidents.com/bra/2019/12/15/another-housing-forum-but-where-were-the-voters/>

https://www.unionleader.com/news/business/whats_working/governor-singles-out-bedford-for-housing-criticism/article_805d5466-f016-5b13-bd83-f0952284898b.html

<https://manchesterinklink.com/forum-on-nhs-affordable-housing-shortage-looks-at-possible-solutions/>

<https://manchesterinklink.com/the-governors-reckless-comments/> (response)

<https://www.wmur.com/article/shortage-of-housing-for-nh-workforce-at-crisis-levels/30231871>

EDITORIAL in UL COMMENTING ON THE GOVERNOR'S ATTACK ON BEDFORD

What's Sununu up to? Making Bedford the bad guy

UNION LEADER EDITORIAL Dec 15, 2019

[This editorial appeared after the Governor mocked Bedford in the paper, stating that we did not have enough "apartments". The paper asked for a quote, printed our comments and the Town Council Chair's as well.]

https://www.unionleader.com/opinion/editorials/what-s-sununu-up-to-making-bedford-the-bad-guy/article_b5a9209a-1c6a-56cc-b324-d86cadef64b8.html

We are not sure just what Gov. Chris Sununu was trying to accomplish with his verbal whack at the Town of Bedford last week. Considering that Bedford has been, until quite recently, a reliably Republican town, is the governor feeling more confident than a lot of us about the 2020 elections?

The governor, rightly, is on a drive to create housing that is affordable to the middle class so that employers desperate for workers can attract employees from other states.

The lack of such housing is a problem not just for southern New Hampshire but for hot job-growth spots across the country. No one has found the perfect solution but different approaches are needed.

One that Sununu and others are keen on is a process to make it easier for developers to get planning and zoning okays more quickly. There is nothing wrong with that as a concept, but the trick will be to do it in a way that doesn't run roughshod over local control.

The Not In My Backyard NIMBYs, of course, try to keep out some housing by means of stalling local approvals. The answer to that is not to end local control but to make sure that all parties understand the housing proposals and their likely results.

For example, the concern that any and all multi-family housing, be it apartments, condos, or duplexes, is going to swell the number of school children is often overblown. Families are having fewer children.

More valid concerns having to do with traffic, urban sprawl, and safety issues also need to be addressed. There should be ways to do so without having the state making end runs around local control.

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Our response is posted here:

<http://bedfordresidents.com/bra/2019/12/20/ul-latest-editorial-and-our-response/>

There are several other LSRs that will become bills relative to perks for developers and management of planning and zoning. These will be noted on our [Bill Watch](#) page and email will be sent out with alerts to dates of committee hearings, and all subsequent votes, so that voters can write to express their opinions..