

From: [Michael Behrendt](#)
To: [Tracey Cutler](#)
Subject: Workforce housing - WEBSITE
Date: Thursday, April 4, 2024 4:27:15 PM

Tracey,
Please post under Planning Board – Workforce housing at the end. “Email from Jillian Ziegra”. Thanks.

Michael Behrendt

Durham Town Planner
8 Newmarket Road
Durham, NH 03824
(603) 868-8064

From: Jillian Ziegra <jmziegra@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 23, 2024 11:50 PM
To: Michael Behrendt <mbehrendt@ci.durham.nh.us>
Subject: Concerned Resident

You don't often get email from jmziegra@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Mr. Behrendt,

I would like to register my deep concern for the proposed "Workforce Housing" Zoning Amendment. The proposal set forth by the proprietors of Harmony Homes is nothing short of indentured servitude for the most vulnerable residents of our community.

The proposal for "workforce housing" indicates that Harmony Homes intends to pay inferior wages to their intended workforce and trap them into perpetual employment by providing them subsidized housing. These employees will be unable to advance to other opportunities outside of Harmony Homes, and will be deterred in reporting unfair working conditions, as doing so will result in the loss of their housing for them and their families.

By allowing the development of this "workforce housing", the Town of Durham is signaling to its residents, the surrounding communities, and the rest of the world, that we support corporations that take advantage of the most vulnerable of our community. Durham is better than that.

Harmony Homes should be held to the same standard as all of the other employers in Durham and provide their employees a liveable wage. Should they choose to offer their employees a stipend for housing in the surrounding communities, that is their prerogative. However, amending the zoning laws to accomodate a company who seeks to exploit its workforce is repugnant. As a lifelong Durham Resident and Oyster River graduate, I am ashamed and embarrassed that the Town of Durham is even taking such an amendment under consideration.

Sincerely,

Jillian Ziegra