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Yes, multiple industry reports, government documents, and news articles confirm that former HUD Secretary Ben Carson focused heavily on overcoming local zoning barriers to promote manufactured housing. [1, 2, 3]

During his tenure, Carson spearheaded an administration-wide push to frame restrictive local zoning—often called NIMBYism ("Not In My Backyard")—as a primary driver of the affordable housing crisis. He frequently highlighted manufactured homes as a vital solution that was being unfairly blocked by local regulations. [1, 2, 3, 4]

The specific claims and initiatives from Carson's tenure at HUD align with this objective through several key mechanisms:

The White House Council on Eliminating Regulatory Barriers [1]

In 2019, Carson was appointed to chair the *White House Council on Eliminating Regulatory Barriers to Affordable Housing*. [1]

- **The Official Stance:** The council issued a comprehensive report titled [Eliminating Regulatory Barriers to Affordable Housing](#) which explicitly target local "snob zoning" and discriminatory land-use planning that prohibited factory-built homes. [1, 2]
- **The Recommendations:** The report advocated for local changes, such as allowing manufactured homes "by-right" in all residential districts and removing discriminatory local codes. [1]

Congressional Testimony on Overriding Barriers

In September 2019, Carson testified before the **U.S. Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs**. Industry updates from the Manufactured Housing Institute reported that Carson directly told Congress HUD was actively working to alleviate state and local impediments blocking manufactured housing. He also announced plans to elevate the *Office of Manufactured Housing Programs* within HUD to give the sector more institutional power to push back against these barriers. [1, 2, 3]

The "Enhanced Preemption" Debate

The idea of "overriding" local zoning stems from a specific federal legal lever: **Enhanced Federal Preemption** under the Manufactured Housing Improvement Act of 2000. [1, 2]

- Industry advocacy groups like the [Manufactured Housing Association for Regulatory Reform \(MHARR\)](#) continuously pushed Carson to use this statutory authority to legally overrule local zoning mandates that excluded HUD-code homes. [1]
- While Carson repeatedly voiced a desire to loosen these local restrictions, legal and trade analyses published by [MHProNews](#) point out that his HUD department ultimately favored encouraging local cooperation rather than enforcing aggressive federal preemption to legally nullify local municipal zoning.[1, 2, 3]

Tie-ins to Federal Grants

Carson sought to leverage federal funding to force municipalities to change their zoning codes. He proposed revising the Obama-era *Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH)* rule. Instead of using the rule to dictate demographic integration, Carson stated in interviews with *The Wall Street Journal* and [NBC News](#) that he wanted to tie HUD grant money directly to a mandate requiring localities to clear out restrictive zoning barriers. [1, 2, 3]

The 2020 Political Shift

It is worth noting that Carson's aggressive stance against local zoning shifted toward the end of his tenure. By August 2020, Carson walked back some of his rhetoric regarding federal intervention into local neighborhoods. In an op-ed co-authored with President Donald Trump, Carson pivotally argued that the federal government should respect local control and avoid setting blanket, national zoning mandates from Washington, contrasting with his 2018–2019 push. [1, 2, 4]

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