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Good Afternoon,

My name is George Askew and I am presently serving as Board of Education chairperson of Regional School District #11. I am respectfully requesting that you vote against the proposed changes in CGS 10-63c that are being proposed by Bill 6493. My reasons for this request are as follows:

- To my knowledge, Regional District # 11 is the only regional school district in the state with towns of a combined population of less than 6,000 residents. Why 6000 as opposed to other numbers? It appears to me that this is selective legislation applying to one district only, that being Regional District #11.
- The Region #11 residents voted to establish a Dissolution Study Committee with the understanding that the existing 10-63c statute would guide the voting process. With a recommendation due in May, why would the process change now?
- There is a clear push at the state level for greater efficiency and cost savings during these very difficult economic times. It is our contention that dissolution would overall increase rather than decrease per pupil expenditures for the town residents, especially when factoring in transportation and special education costs. We have shared this information with the Dissolution Study Committee and town officials.
- Parish Hill Middle/High School, the region's middle/high school, has shown notable improvement under a new administration. The new administration has a shared vision of academic rigor and high expectations for all. For example, CAPT/CMT scores have shown significant overall growth, the school has been removed from "warning status" by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) and was commended by NEASC in 32 areas, six Advanced Placement courses were added, graduation requirements have been strengthened, enrollment is increasing, and disciplinary offenses have been drastically reduced. When examining school

performance data, we strongly believe that data **trends** are more important than historical data.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Should you wish to discuss this matter further, please call me at 860-455-9474.