



# Montville Youth Service Bureau

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February 5, 2009

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing this letter on behalf of the Southeastern Regional Action Council (SERAC) and the invaluable services and programs that this agency provides for the 20 town region of New London County. I am the director of one of the many Youth Service Bureaus that work with and benefit from the exceptional work that SERAC does in each of our communities. Families, youth, schools, and both educational and mental health professionals have found SERAC to be an invaluable community resource for support, information, and raising awareness about issues and trends of concern in our communities.

Under the excellent leadership of the current Executive Director and her attention to data details and the growing needs of our communities, we have been able to offer so much more beyond our regular community social services. I was a board member of the Citizens Task Force, the former name of SERAC for many years, and though I have always believed in the work of the agency, in the past several years I have watched SERAC gain so much more visibility locally as well as in other areas of the state. SERAC provides a positive example for other Regional Action Councils, as well as other agencies by setting standards of excellence. The local connections that have been made and the relationships built between SERAC staff members and the communities it serves are invaluable and important.

I also have additional concerns regarding the cost –neutrality of merging SERAC with another RAC, as there may be a significant loss of federal funding by implementing this merge. Please consider the impact that a decision to merge will have not only on funding streams, but the impact it will have on local communities and families that have come to trust and value SERAC as a resource and a partner in prevention work. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barbara A. Lockhart". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Barbara A. Lockhart, B.A., M.S.  
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