

From: Kevin McDonald [kevin.mcdonald@charterinternet.com]
Sent: Friday, February 20, 2009 9:02 AM
To: Friis, John
Cc: Kevin McDonald
Subject: Public Hearing Testimony - HB6493 An Act Concerning Regional School Districts.

Committee Co-chairs and Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important bill - HB6493, An Act Concerning Regional School Districts.

I AM IN FAVOR OF THIS BILL.

In these harsh economic times it is important to support economies of scale in governmental enterprises. No larger local governmental enterprise exists than the education (K-12) function. This bill specifically rectifies impediments to education efficiency and effectiveness in small school districts.

The town of Chaplin, together with Hampton and Scotland form the RD11 school district. RD11 has a high school population of approximately 200 students. In its present form it is exceedingly difficult to provide quality education that can be afforded by the communities. With so few students even a bare bones curriculum results in a low student-teacher ratio that indicates relative high per-student costs. In fact RD11 costs are between \$17.5K and \$20.5K per student depending on whose statistics are utilized (and I would expect up to an additional substantial increase this coming year due to additional factors). With larger school districts not only would costs recede but also available curriculum would increase.

Current statute requires that dissolution of school districts require a majority vote in EACH municipality. This is unfair to voters and flies against the one-person/ one-vote principal that has been supported Connecticut Judiciary and Legislative branches for over 40 years.

HB6493 supports more efficient and more effective local education AND implement the one-person / one-vote principal.

Thank you,

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