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To Education Committee Co-Chairs
State of Connecticut
House - Andy Fleischmann Senate - Thomas Gaffey
Public Hearing Testimony - HB 6493

It has come to my attention that there will be a hearing held Monday 2/23/09 concerning Bill #6493 in an attempt to change the state statues concerning Regional District high schools and the method of voting for or against the dissolution of a district. This bill has been presented so fast that unfortunately due to other obligations I will be unable to attend the meeting. With that being said I would like to state my stance on the subject through this correspondence.

My interest in this subject is due mainly to my extended involvement in it. I am presently Co Chair of the Chaplin Board of Finance of which I have been a member of for many years and have been deeply involved in the financial aspects of both the town and schools in Chaplin. As a responsibility of my being on the Board of Finance I have been selected to serve on many committees over the years. For the past year I have served on the committee to Add or Withdraw grades from Parish Hill High School as the Chairman of the Finance sub committee which has given me quite an education into the finances of operating a Regional middle/high school.

During the last year there has been an unprecedented release of propoganda from our first selectman Robert Dubois using his position to misinform the residents as to the financial savings that they may expect if they vote to dissolve the district. He does this from a mostly unformed and ignorant position. I have on many occasions asked Mr. Dubois to please let both the Withdrawal of Grades 7-8 and Dissolution committees run their course and complete their research unimpeded as they were formed to do. The tactics to mislead the public have been very creative, including the one before us with Bill #6493. It has become quite obvious to me that to dissolve the district would be very costly and put a very heavy burden on tax payers in very difficult times. This Bill if passed would be very effective in harvesting the votes sewn by the misinformation of the claimed savings that would result in dissolution.

So I am asking that your committee not to support the change in the way the vote is presently organized in the middle of a process that is already 9 months along

Regards, William H. Rose IV