

**To: Honorable Senator Beth Bye and Rep. Toni Walker
and the members of the Appropriations Committee**

Testimony in **FAVOR** or **SB816**

Dear Senators and Representatives

As a resident of Haddam and a long time supporter of our schools I am very concerned about SB816. After Connecticut Yankee power plant shut down our grand list was greatly reduced. Unfortunately, our ECS allocation was never increased to help offset this loss. As a result, the town has had to continually increase taxes in order to give our schools the financial support they need.

Haddam is currently the tenth worst funded municipality at 42%. We simply need our fair share of the state funds. The town has demonstrated its support for our schools and our taxes have continually risen to reach this goal. We have reached the point, however, that cost has become so high that without our equal share of state funding severe cuts to the school budget must be made. Our high taxes make it more difficult to sell houses and to attract businesses which would in turn increase our grand list.

I had four children go through our school system and am very pleased about the quality of education they received. It is my prayer that the current students will be able to receive an equally good education. In order to do this, however, we need to be funded at least at the 50% level.

I appreciate your work and am sure that once you know the facts that you will not let the students in small school systems like ours suffer because of an unequal distribution of ECS funding.

Thank you

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