

From: Jim Woodworth <...@net>
Sent: Monday, March 30, 2015 8:37 AM
To: AppTestimony
Cc: Sen. Linares, Art; Rep. Miller, Philip; mschlag@haddam.org
Subject: SB816

TO: Honorable Sen. Beth Bye and Rep. Toni Walker,
And the Members of the Appropriations Committee

Testimony in FAVOR of SB816

An Act Establishing a Minimum Level of Funding Under the Education Cost Sharing Grant Formula

Monday March 30, 2015

As a retired senior and longtime resident of Haddam I urge you to support legislation to correct the inequities in funding under the education cost sharing grant formula. This system has created a burden to Haddam taxpayers ever since the Connecticut Yankee Power Plant shutdown over 15 years ago.

We all understand that a fair and equitable education for all children is one of the most important responsibilities we have and should not be taken lightly. As a taxpayer I have always been willing to pay my share of this but feel that it should be more in line with other communities.

With respect to the ECS formula, there are currently 19 significantly underfunded towns throughout the state. These towns receive less than 50% of the amount required by the formula and Haddam is one of them.

These communities must either raise more tax revenue or go without, making it much harder to adequately fund both our schools and town government.

Specifically in Haddam, which at 42% is the **tenth worst funded** out of all 169 municipalities, we receive millions less per year than our neighboring towns. The direct effect of the unequal distribution of ECS funds makes it extremely hard to compete for businesses due to a higher mill rate and we go without when it comes to many necessary infrastructure maintenance and improvements to our schools and municipal properties

Our children and residents should not be penalized when something beyond their control occurs that causes the grand list to drop so drastically and the ECS formula does not take that dramatic drop into account.

With the knowledge that the formula has complications, a fair place to start fixing the problem would be to fund the most underfunded communities up to the 50% mark.

This bill will be the first step in getting the ECS funding formula back on track and will show the people of Connecticut you truly intend to make the system fair once again.

Thank you for taking the time to discuss this important issue.

Sincerely,

James Woodworth

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