

**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*

Thursday, April 2, 2015

It is my understanding that 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.

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 higher mill rate and we go without when it comes to many necessary infrastructure maintenance and improvements to our schools and municipal properties.

When our biggest taxpayer Connecticut Yankee Nuclear Power Plant shut down permanently over 15 years ago, our grand list dropped dramatically but our ECS allocation was never adjusted upward for that loss. Haddam is being funded as if the power plant was still in operation.

A fair place to start fixing the problem would be to fund the most underfunded communities up to the 50% mark. **SB816** is a first step in fixing the funding formula for all communities throughout the state but will most directly impact Haddam as it should.

Sincerely,

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