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To: The Appropriations Committee of the Connecticut Legislature

Re: Testimony in favor of SB816

As a citizen and taxpayer in Connecticut and the Town of Haddam, I strongly favor passage of SB816 to help correct the inequities in the current Education Cost Sharing formula. As I understand it, our ECS allocation has never been adjusted for the loss of Connecticut Yankee Atomic Power Plant which used to pay over half our local property tax revenue and now no longer exists.

Of course while this repair would be progress, it only addresses a symptom of a much larger and more widespread problem. Until we inject more individual responsibility for expenses into the educational system and those people in charge approve expenses as though they were coming directly out of their own pockets, the problem will continue to exist. More emphasis on teaching science, math, history logic and morality would probably lower the need for athletic fields, uniforms, sports event bus trips and other ancillary but expensive budget items and help get us back among the world's most highly educated countries.

Respectfully,



James McHutchison