

In Support of HB-5304 - An Act Concerning...School Building Projects



Anthony Amato <amatoa@region-12.org>

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to EDTestimony, arthur.oneill, rob.kane, Patricia ▾

Dear Committee:

My name is Anthony Amato, member of the Region 12 Board of Education, Chairman of AG-STEM Committee and resident of Washington, CT.

I'm writing to express my support for Region 12's two projects contained in HB-5304.

The three towns of Region 12 - Washington, Bridgewater and Roxbury voted overwhelmingly and in record numbers, by a 69% margin to pass referendum for both projects. Its also noteworthy to point out that the referendum passed by wide margins in each of the three towns. Region 12 received a \$1m grant from the Diebold Foundation to assist with this project - another show of enthusiasm and confidence in the viability of this endeavor.

Prior to the vote, Region 12 held numerous town hall meetings, hosted small gatherings, sponsored booths, etc to educate the public on three fronts: 1. Benefits to the children, 2. Benefits to communities and 3. Economics. We strived to be as transparent as possible to allow an informed decision based on data.

You may already be aware that Region 14's Ag Program turns away 50-60 qualified students each year. Many of these children would be served by Reg 12's Ag Program. We also believe that proximity of Region 12's program to Danbury, New Fairfield and the other western towns will draw even greater numbers. And we believe the Equine Center will fill a void in the current Ag programs and serve a large interest group in our communities. Equine management touches many disciplines, offering students a complete experience while building a solid bridge to our communities. Taken together the residents of Region 12 are confident this academy will be economically viable.

I urge you to support Reg 12's Ag-STEM project and the desperately needed renovation to our science labs.

Respectfully,

Anthony Amato
Region 12 Board of Education