To: education Committee of Connecticut General Assembly
Regards to SB No. 1019 – An Act Concerning An Evaluation Of Equity Issues Related To The Town Of Middlebury’s Membership In The Region 15 School District
As the First Selectman of the town of Southbury I am opposed to this bill. It is my feeling that the tax payers are properly represented in the current manner. To change how individual taxpayers and citizens count in their vote seems to be unfair to the people who are in the Region 15 make up. As it is now it is up to the majority of the citizens who make up the Region to decide the direction that the Region moves in. I believe it has been general philosophy of most administrations in Southbury to treat the Region as a separate entity from this office. This is to say that it is up to the individual voters to determine. Any change in the right of a voter, or their representation, to have themselves heard on unequal footing would wrong. In government there are such things as minority representation. There is also such a thing as majority representation. Here in Southbury we have the highest percentage of senior population in Connecticut. Would it be fair to consider their vote or representation to be more or less than equal to other voters? Heritage Village is where many live in the over 55 community. I don’t believe that their vote should count any more or less in a municipal vote. If the residents of HV come out opposed to a municipal or regional budget it is fairly represented by one vote per citizen. They are equal in our community to all taxpayers. This should be carried on in the Region 15 school system also. As a side note: There are some benefits that the minority towns have received from the economy of scale from the larger towns being in the region. It could be argued that there is a cost benefit to them.
Respectfully Submitted:
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