

I am writing to voice for the record my vehement opposition to proposed Senate Bills No. 738 and No. 457 and to Senate Bill No. 874 (note – the body of this e-mail is included in the attached Word document for inclusion in the public record). Forced school regionalization is not the answer to CT's public school issues and will do more harm than good. In diluting local control and forcing the creation of larger districts, these misguided bills will have a negative impact in variety of ways, including:

- Lower school quality, particularly for those districts that have developed best-in-class schools in a fiscally responsible manner;
- Decreased real estate values, which in many areas are strongly correlated with the quality of small, locally run school districts;
- Eroded confidence in CT's government representatives; and
- A decline in the overall attractiveness of CT as one of the top locations to live and raise a family. We have already seen an exodus of business from CT to other states and an overall stagnation of the population in recent years. These bills will provide another disincentive for people to choose to call CT home.

As an independent voter, I cast my ballots for representatives that I believe will be thoughtful, logical and independent thinkers. I strongly encourage you to exercise these qualities and oppose each of these bills.

Sincerely,
Howard Haggerty
Wilton, CT