

February 26, 2019

Connecticut Legislature and Governor,

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a long time Connecticut resident, residing currently in Wilton. As a parent of 3 current public school students, I strongly oppose SB 738, SB 457, and SB 874 and any other bill that opens the door to forced regionalization of Connecticut Public Schools. The concept is ill conceived and can only result in the further disadvantage Connecticut economically.

Like many here, I moved as an adult to Connecticut originally for the school system. To Weston in 1996 and then to Wilton in 2014. Forcing towns to consolidate into larger regionalized systems can only result in a degradation of well managed schools, such as Weston and Wilton. Any savings garnered by such a move will come at the great cost of not only the property values in towns such as Wilton, but will drive current residents and future tax payers from our state. I have heard of two such cases already, where new residents looking to come to Fairfield County were driven out at the mere prospect of something like this passing. I can assure you that moving from Connecticut is a common topic of conversation and this can only accelerate this unfortunate trend.

The economic attractiveness of Connecticut is at a low point since I became a resident over 40 years ago. This is especially true in Fairfield County where the loss of GE put downward economic pressure on the region. What will Connecticut do when the large tax payers in Fairfield County, in particular, begin to move out and bring their businesses and tax dollars with them? I can tell you as an Economics Major (UCONN class of 91) that if passed, this will prove to be gasoline on the fire of economic decay that began with the state income tax over 25 years ago and continues to accelerate.

I urge you to oppose SB 738, SB 457, SB 874, and any other legislation that opens the door to forced regionalization of Connecticut public schools.

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