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RE: SB 738, introduced by Sen. Looney, **and SB 457**, introduced by Sens. Duff and Osten, **and SB 874**: An Act Concerning Education Initiatives and Services in Connecticut.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We (our family of three adult voters) oppose all three bills. We fundamentally oppose regionalization of our schools.

- **What is the felt difficulty here?**
- **Where is the pressure coming from for these bills?**

We have so many infrastructure and transportation issues. Our schools are one of our few remaining strengths. Fix what is broken. Do not break what is working.

We should strengthen our strengths and address our weaknesses.

1. Connecticut is the only state without a county government system. There is a reason for that.
2. Aligning schools with judicial districts is irrational, historically unprecedented, and is a truly incompetent leap.
3. Our state is unmistakably failing and losing its citizens to fiscally sound states with better management and better fiscal controls.
4. We are all about local control, public accountability, and raising our next generations of well educated, assertive, and proud citizens.
5. One of our remaining strengths in this much challenged state is its history in small towns, big towns, and small cities. Each has different histories and personalities and demographics.
6. Why is bigger better? What is more to manage more efficient? Why is farther from the clientele (the children students and the parents) better?
7. The conflict between the rural ideal and the centralized cities has been around since Jefferson and Hamilton's different views of the United States.
8. We have so many friends and neighbors who have an "exit plan" from Connecticut.

You in Hartford do not know your citizens who remain here and want to extend our small town character and quality. You are driving us away by your highly partisan, myopic, and truly destructive bill writing. I am ashamed and embarrassed to read these documents.

Please listen to the citizens,

Barbara Geddis Wooten

