

February 24, 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my opposition to the recently proposed forced school regionalization bill (SB 738). I live in the town of Wilton, CT, and I am concerned for the future of this town if a bill like 738 were to pass.

We bought our house in Wilton in 2005 because of the reputation of the town's school system. And while I've already seen a 20% decline in property values over the last dozen years, if this bill were to go through, I would expect an additional, larger drop in property valuations. Wilton's population is made up of people of many different financial means. I believe that a further drop in property values would be very harmful and would threaten future prospects as people depend on the equity in their homes to fund their kids education, retire, etc.

It is also unclear what this would accomplish. My understanding is that the state looking for ways to save money. There does not seem to be a consensus that this would do that. I think that the end result would be many people looking for ways to leave the state, fire sale liquidations of homes and lower tax revenue for the state.

Please vote against SB 738.

Sincerely,  
Jeff Bates  
Wilton, Ct