

February 27, 2019

To Whom it May Concern:

I am unable to attend the public hearing on forced regionalization on Friday March 1, 2019. I am writing to convey my strong views on this subject. Forced regionalization would be a big mistake and would cause significant harm to Connecticut families and communities. While allowing towns to share services if they choose to do so can be beneficial, forcing towns to regionalize school districts is not the solution. It will indeed exacerbate the problems CT faces.

My wife and I moved our family from New York to New Canaan, CT in large part due to the quality of the schools. We specifically chose a house within walking distance to the public schools our children attend in New Canaan. In addition to personally moving to New Canaan, I also moved my business Stamford. My wife is very involved in our local schools and we are very involved in our local community. We like that our schools are unique to our town.

While we love New Canaan, we are very disappointed in CT at the State level. Connecticut has proven an unfriendly place to run a company. The mentality prevalent in Hartford of "shifting the burden" to employers, business owners and those deemed affluent has driven great businesses out of Connecticut and as caused many high-quality families to leave. This mentality has exacerbated the problem rather than solve it. Real estate prices are plummeting, employment and wage growth is stagnant, and the outlook for our state is concerning.

One of the primary factors keeping us in the State is the excellent schools in New Canaan. If the Legislature and Governor unwisely choose to force regionalization, this will accelerate the departure of many more people, likely including my family and my company. Hartford is providing residents with more and more reasons to leave Connecticut. Please do not give us another major reason to leave. Please vote against Bill 457, Bill 738, Bill 874 and any further attempts to force regionalization.

Regards,
Don Hawks

Donald L. Hawks III
80 Danvers Lane
New Canaan, CT 06840

President & Managing Director
Brookside Equity Partners LLC
201 Tresser Boulevard, Suite 320
Stamford, CT 06901
203-595-4521
dhawks@brooksideequity.com
www.brooksideequity.com