

## **Bills SB 454, SB 738 and SB 457**

To whom it may concern!

### **SB 738 and SB 454**

#### **I oppose both bills:**

Merging school districts will have the following results;

- Schools are one of the most critical criteria for families selecting a town to live in. We moved for this reason to Wilton. Many of our friends and neighbors did the same. We all paid a premium for the real estate in the interest of a good education for our children. Local government makes it one of its highest priorities. The community has an intense interest in the school system. Merging it with another district has the likelihood that the other town has different priorities. **Leave the control over the school system in the hands of its own community.**

- As the cost for the school system directly affects the real estate taxes the community keeps a close eye on the expenses, on their overall needs and allocations and foremost its priorities. **Let the community control their expenses for the school system. The residents monitor it closer than any regional organization with diverse priorities.**

- The anticipated savings are highly speculative. Some previously executed regionalizations have not shown any benefits. Even if you might eliminate one administrator or so the loss of real estate values and the lack of newcomers to the town will by far outweigh the meager savings.

### **SB 457**

#### **I oppose the bill for the same reason as above.**

In general I don't understand what Hartford, the State, tries to accomplish. Does it want to hide its incompetence to reduce overall administrative expenses and blame it on the towns? That is a ridiculous game and the politicians who came up with this idea should be ashamed of themselves. The same holds true for the idea that the towns have to contribute 25% to teachers' pension. I guess this is done to make us believe the State will not raise the taxes but the town. The towns are the "bad guys". Us in Hartford are the angels. Shame on you!!!!

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