

February 21st, 2017

PDF attachment of original email sent on 2/4/19

Re: Proposed Bill SB 738

Senator Looney et al.,

I respect your efforts and involvement in our State Democracy. As a voter, I would like to make you aware of my opinion on SB 738:

I assume that this Bill was written with the intention of raising state-wide school performance. I support this idea. However, regionalizing school districts, will not do that. School Road in Weston is the main reason why we chose Weston; the community and small town feel is second to none. This Bill reads like we are being penalized for living in small town CT. I think small town CT is pretty great, and forcing local school districts to merge, will take away from our town. I've heard time and time again, that we need to attract more people to my town. Our school district is one of the major positives in our town. Without it, we don't have much of a draw for young families. Without young families, towns like Weston will fail.

If you truly want to save money and have greater bargaining power, then by all means regionalize shared services like Culinary Services, Procurement / Supplies and Property Maintenance. If you want voters to support your efforts, then give them something tangible to review. Please don't throw a Bill at people without a proper implementation plan. This Bill has created hysteria and panic; already I've heard of families that have discounted CT because of this bill, and are now looking in NY and NJ instead.

Our state of Connecticut needs to be innovative and push boundaries. SB 738 is neither. My property value is in decline, my taxes are going up. GE left and most businesses have left or are in the process of leaving Stamford. I would like to see more discussion on ways to attract new business and enterprise to our State. I would like to see more discussion on renewable energy and cleaner industrial practices. I'd like to hear more about how I can heat my home in the Winter without fossil fuels and cool my home in the Summer without fossil fuel generated electricity.

In addition, what are we as a State, doing to improve the Metro North connection into NYC. This trainline is our local disgrace; it's slow, it's crowded, it's in need of a major overhaul to reduce train times and increase comfort. That alone will encourage more high income earners from NYC and improve our local economy.

We've lived in CA, FL and DC, and when it came to raising our family, we chose Weston, CT. We chose Weston CT over Southern California because of the strong sense of community and the fact that the Weston Rd School Campus is exceptional and unique; 4 schools in one road with shared facilities is the very definition of educational efficiency.

We don't want to move our family again, however, Bills like this will push us out.

Yours faithfully,

Sarah Hutchison
Weston CT