

February 27, 2019

Dear Hartford,

I am writing to express my extreme disagreement with the three pieces of legislation being proposed: SB 738, introduced by Sen. Martin Looney; SB 457, introduced by Sen. Bob Duff; and SB 874, introduced by Gov. Ned Lamont. While you claim that you will not force any town to “regionalize”, you’re incentivizing others and in essence creating financial penalties for those who don’t. You say it’s a “carrot” not a “stick”, but if those so-called incentives are simply being redistributed from existing grants/funds then you are taking something away that already existed from those who don’t regionalize.

There are a number of issues with the aforementioned proposals, including the unintended consequences of what is being proposed. By commissioning a study over the next 1-2 years puts a cloud of uncertainty over our towns and has already started creating issues within the residential market...just what we need...another reason for people not to move here! Connecticut is one of the only states where property values have continued to decline since the financial crisis and should be doing everything to turn this market around, not the other way around.

I realize the State needs to identify ways to reduce cost, but it shouldn’t be at the expense of our schools and our children’s educations. If you want to identify opportunities then identify the root cause and face into the real problem...pensions, unions, bloated State Government. And perhaps become more business friendly and start attracting businesses to attract more tax revenue versus driving businesses out.

Regards,

Jim Burke
42 Chessor Ln
Wilton, CT 06897