

Please stop SB 874.

I'm a first generation immigrant from Estonia, living in Wilton with my husband and 2 daughters. I am having a hard time explaining the rationale behind forced regionalization to anyone, especially to my parents who can't help but think of Soviet Union where state would do whatever it wanted and citizens had no power or say.

We have worked for everything we have. Neither of us came from money, we put ourselves through schools while working 3 jobs without any help from our parents. We worked hard, we sacrificed, we made good decisions, we never travelled. We bought a house and are paying really high taxes in a town that small and rural, that offers very little amenities, commute is hell (3 hours a day) but we can give our kids a good education. That was the sole reason we moved here. Everyone that moves here does so for schools, everyone volunteers as much as they can within the schools and town.

If you want to flatten the towns through this forced regionalization, you will hurt the middle class here. Truly rich have kids in private schools and are protected. If the home values drop 20%, most of us will be under water with mortgages higher than the house is worth. Many are no longer considering CT to move to and many more are starting to look where else they can move. You have companies moving out of CT, the population has been declining since 2013 - flattening the towns and damaging property values will really destroy this state. We have one of the highest income and property taxes, the cost of living is so high and you are taking away one thing we had and the reason we stayed here - the schools. If you lose more of your middle class, you'll also lose your tax income, a sizable chunk of it originating from Fairfield County. The regionalization will deepen the crisis Connecticut is in and you will have cemented its downfall.

Please don't destroy our schools.

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