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February 28, 2019

Connecticut Education Committee
Legislative Office Building Room 3100
Hartford, CT 06106

Regarding: Opposition to SB 738, SB 457, and SB 874

Dear Members of the Education Committee:

A lot has turned negative in CT in the last 11 years since we moved from NYC to New Canaan, but we lucked out with Mark and Gina. They're our neighbors. Our other neighbor, the Petersons – they were great too. Chris took a job in Austin, TX – they looked very happy on that Holiday Card. They probably can't wait until the house in New Canaan sells – It's been sitting there for the past 18 months – unsold. Maybe, this summer. Hey, at least he doesn't have a state income tax in TX – that's a good thing with the SALT cap.

So back to Mark and Gina – our great neighbors. There is probably a business case for joining households and reducing our cable, garbage pick-up and telephone bills. I bet we can make an efficiency argument on the snow plowing and landscaping too!

This is all true – except for some narrow thinking on consolidating households based simply on an economic rationale. Perhaps a crude parallel, but it is the only way I have been able to evaluate, and ultimately oppose, state legislation SB 738, SB 457, and SB 874.

We moved from NYC to New Canaan when our boys were turning one-year old, in 2007. Maybe earlier than necessary we thought – but we felt it was inevitable and we liked the town and a house we saw on-line. We felt it was 'inevitable' because we did not have the energy to navigate, nor confidence in, the NYC schools.

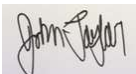
We made a terrible investment in real estate, and any hope of getting a shorter job to a good paying job in CT becomes more unlikely each year, but our school analysis was excellent – and we can live with the other poor decisions. It's all about our children – and they are well-adjusted and doing well at Saxe Middle School.

In short my analysis indicates that compulsory regionalization has absolutely no positive outcome except causing stress, disruption and a strong further impetus to flee CT.

- SB 738, SB 457, and SB 874 do NOT improve education.
- SB 738, SB 457, and SB 874 do NOT save taxpayers money.
- SB 738, SB 457, and SB 874 hurt small communities, like New Canaan.

Please do what is right for hardworking families – this is ill-time to experiment or tamper with one of the few things we can point to as being positive with our investment in CT – our children's education in a school system that is part of our town, for our town, overseen by the town.

Sincerely,



John F. Taylor