

Dear Members of Ways and Means,

Please support restoring the Act 46 ballot language related to per pupil spending and the year over year percentage change. In a funding system that is extraordinarily challenging for voters to understand and for staff to explain, this is one straightforward transparency element that can help voters link their budget vote to their property tax bill. If the committee is concerned about context, a sentence could be added at the end that says "School district tax rates are based on per pupil spending." This sentence would be consistent with what will appear on the fronts of the tax bills starting next year where the equalized (pre-CLA) education tax rate will show up as the "District Rate."

Thanks for your consideration,

Jake Feldman

Senior Fiscal Analyst, Vermont Department of Taxes

&

School Board Member (speaking for himself)

Voter/Taxpayer