

To: Chairman Sharpe and members of the House Education Committee

From: Gail B. Conley, Retired Educator, Huntington Citizen

Date: 2/4/2015

Thanks for the opportunity to share my ideas on our Vermont schools and potential mergers. I continue to believe that our students are served best when our communities, through our locally elected school boards, have the authority to make these important educational decisions.

On this CESU decision for a RED merger, Huntington citizens voted "No" at the 67% level. In our CESU, we are the only town that decided to keep our K-4 Elementary School board. This new governance plan –as a MUUD, is complicated and will need some time to develop. A number of Huntington citizens believe this is best for our students at this time.

We (I) will be happy to respond to questions from the committee. Thanks, Gail B Conley