

Testimony, Act 46
Mark E. Laxer
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I commend the state of Vermont for seeking to alleviate inefficiencies within the public school systems but the way the Act 46 initiative has and is being handled is highly disturbing to this tax payer. I spent decades working inside a very large, dysfunctional bureaucracy in Washington DC and had been thrilled to move to Vermont where we value community, communication, and respect for that which isn't necessarily large, loud, powerful. Right now I'm not so thrilled.

The stress, fear, division, and mass confusion generated by Act 46 and all the complexities it entails are monumental. It is not particularly efficient for Vermont to require of its thoughtful citizens a great deal of time trying to figure out how to best protect our children and communities. The utterly confusing top-down bullying that is the law of the land suggests we all quit our day jobs, get a law degree, and try to make sense of a twisted obstacle course that stretches far and wide.

I would ask the elected officials who are driving this process to kindly allow for increased, dramatically so, flexibility in the way we the people define our schools, our communities, for they are one and the same. Small can be good and efficient if done smartly.