

April 3, 2017

Lucie Daley  
2731 River Road  
Lemington, VT 05903

Dear Vermont State Legislature:

I am proud to call Vermont home—the fierce loyalty and pride, neighbor looking out for neighbor. But when I saw that my small town’s residential education tax rate was the highest in the state in 2016 at \$2.47, I was disgusted. No one was looking out for us.

As a parent and Lemington taxpayer, I voted against the school district merger this past March due to the hardship caused by the inflated tax rate and the boundaries and unfairness that the five percent throttle will create.

As the tax collector the past ten years, I have watched the education tax rate fluctuate wildly due to an increased number of unanticipated students, which is understandable, and the unrealistically-based equalized pupil portion of the formula, which has created this residential taxpayer hardship. Personally and through others stories, I have seen how much this hurts my neighbors and as I see it ultimately our children.

I will continue to vote against the merger until the inflated tax rate that is causing residential taxpayer hardship is adjusted. We need to figure a just formula for us and other towns in our situation. The five percent throttle that will restrict residential tax savings if we merge also needs to be abolished.

Vermont prides itself in its neighborly and fair and just and welcoming attitude. Show your hardworking and proud constituents that the legislature has the same attitude and change this for the people of Lemington and other taxpayers of our state. Show us you care and understand.

Sincerely,  
Lucie Daley, proud Vermonter for the past 31 years