

Testimony:

My name is Dan MacArthur I am a school board member in Marlboro I am also a voting member of the Windham Central supervisory union board and I am also one of the two regional representatives from Windham region to the Vermont school boards Association so I speak today not only on behalf of the children and Marlboro but of this entire region from Readsboro to Londonderry to Bellows Falls Brattleboro- many of the districts in this region are greatly rural and many of them have poverty levels well above the state average. It is my fervent hope that we can come up with a weighting formula that provides educational opportunities and local educational property tax rates which are equitable throughout the state.

I don't believe that an informed decision on weighting formulas can possibly be reached unless we all have access to Modeling showing the local impact of all of the various options including the weighting formulas as recommended by the Kolbe commission. Without access to all of those numbers there is lack of transparency which clouds the public's view of the work of this Task force- why not make all of the information available so a truly informed decision can be made?

The final decision as to what gets implemented will be made by the Legislature and I will be lobbying my legislators hard to make sure that what they implement is the one that provides the best measure of equity throughout the State.

Thanks to all of you for your work on this task force special thanks to Senator Hardy and to representative Kornheiser for a letter which I received in the last couple of days which explains what is going on with the task force and the difficulties of getting modeling,I appreciate the openness and transparency of this communication.

There is a comment in this letter that gives me hope that the authors of the Kolbe Report are being included in the work of this Task Force and I would like clarification of this, and I quote:

"Coordinating remote work sessions between AOE, JFO and the Report authors (has been difficult)... “

does this mean that the authors of the original Report, and their recommendations, are a part of the ongoing discussion, that their original recommendations will be included in the updated modeling, and that they will be in agreement as to the final recommendation of this Task Force? This would, I believe, go a long way toward ensuring that the Task Force work has credibility with the public and before the Legislature.

Thank you again for your work.