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Subject: EEA
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Dear Members of the State Board of Education:

I want to start by thanking each and every one of you for your service to the State of Vermont and your continued commitment to Vermont students. As community leaders, current and former school board members, parents, and educators, you each bring a valuable perspective to your work on the board.

Yesterday, I received communication from the Education Equity Alliance regarding your work with the independent school approval rules (Rule Series 2200). In my opinion, this communication was unfairly critical of your work and your process.

As you know, the General Assembly establishes education policy for the state, and directs the State Board of Education to work through the details of that policy through the rulemaking process, which is governed by a very robust statutory framework (the Administrative Procedures Act).

From what I have observed, the State Board is going above and beyond what the statute requires with your proposed rulemaking. The Board has been very transparent about its intent to re-open the 2200 rules, its plan to supplement those rules with relevant aspects of Act 1, and has been drafting proposed rule changes in open meetings. This has all happened before the formal APA process has even begun. Once you have a draft ready for public comment, I understand that the Board will hold public hearings and accept public comment through the required APA process.

The debate - and the politics - about whether all Education Quality Standards (including those that are clearly specific to public school governance structures) should apply to independent schools should be left to the General Assembly. Any attempt to circumvent the legislative process is simply not appropriate.

My very best---

Brian Campion

Senator Brian Campion
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Committee Membership:
Senate Committee on Agriculture
Senate Committee on Education, Chair