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Sent: Tuesday, November 8, 2022 8:47 AM
To: AOE - Info Ed <AOE.EDInfo@vermont.gov>
Subject: White River Valley Supervisory Union potential merger

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Good Morning Secretary French;

I am writing to you as I am in direct opposition to the potential Merger Of the WRVSU merger with the Lincoln school system. I am a life long resident of South Royalton and multi-generational as well. We had a small school system that chose to merge with a few other schools prior to act 60 taking effect. This, has cost the town of Royalton tax payers dearly. Our taxes keep rising and the incomes in this area are not rising to meet them. Native Vermonters are leaving our area and it is truly sad. The first merger forced us to take on the debt of other schools, repair their buildings instead of closing them and centralizing, and adding complicated busing and expenses for many principals when overall the number of children in all areas is decreasing, We have a more complex busing system then I would ever want to try to understand to cover students arriving and leaving 2 school sites. What we have now, no matter how I grumble, can only work with schools that are close together and can share some resources like busing and nurses and special needs. It can not be effective over the distance that Lincoln is from our sites. If they have to come to one of our buildings its a long drive in the summer and can be challenging drive in the winter. I understand the draw. The SU did not close schools as the board, and then the voters in each of those towns decided it was important for each town to have preK-5 in their building. Ultimately, our tax payers can not afford to take on the expense of another school. There must be a solution closer to their school that would meet their needs.

Thank You For Your Time,
Cynthia Blake-Cusson