PETITION OF WATERFORD RESIDENTS

TO THE VERMONT STATE LEGISLATURE

ADMINISTERED BY WATERFORD SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

Regarding State Education Map:

Potential Regional Assignments Under Act 73

We, the undersigned residents of Waterford, Vermont, have one clear request: <u>if a mandatory regional education map (or equivalent) is adopted by the state, Waterford must be placed in a region with St. Johnsbury.</u>

We are the town next to St. Johnsbury. It *is* our region. Here are a few points that illustrate this clearly:

- St. Johnsbury is where our community lives our daily lives.
- Waterford School and a large portion of our town has the St. Johnsbury zip code, 05819.
- St. Johnsbury is where Waterford students have attended high school for generations.

In the map originally proposed by the House Education Committee, we were incorrectly placed in a different region than St. Johnsbury. Under that map, our students would be unnecessarily transported far past St. Johnsbury to high schools outside our local community. We ask that the state legislature listen to us and understand our geography. Please do not impose a map that ignores our local rural reality.

We also want to state on record: our current school district does not speak for us on this matter. Our current placement in Caledonia Central Supervisory Union (CCSU) is a result of Act 46. It does not indicate our town's regional affiliation. It has no bearing on where our children attend school. Waterford has our own public PreK-8 school, Waterford School. Our placement in CCSU is an administrative function. Geographically, we are a St. Johnsbury region community.

- *An example to further illustrate this point: Waterford School athletics are not affiliated with CCSU. Waterford athletics are in partnership with Kingdom East School District and St. Johnsbury Recreation Department due to our regional affiliation, sensible and safe transportation times, and geographic proximity.*

Respectfully, if a mandatory regional education map (or equivalent) is adopted by the state, Waterford must be placed in a region with St. Johnsbury. Thank you.
