Subject: Redistricting

Tue 3/17/2026 7:00 PM

Dear Representative or Senator,

I am writing as a community member from North Hero to share concerns about the proposed draft district map and its impact on families in Grand Isle County.

While I understand the intent to promote equity, the current map does not reflect the geographic realities, transportation routes, and employment patterns that shape daily life for families in our community.

As North Hero no longer has a local elementary school our children will already be leaving our town for elementary school. While we have always understood that they would need to leave the county for high school, school choice has always allowed families to determine the best fit for them. For many years, families in North Hero, South Hero and the Town of Grand Isle have intentionally chosen schools in Colchester, Essex, and South Burlington because those schools align with work locations, childcare needs, transportation routes, and extracurricular opportunities. The schools identified on the draft map do not reflect these long-standing, practical choices. While I recognize that widespread school choice may not be practical to maintain there needs to be significant consideration taken into account when determining the update to the district map and how it impacts families in Grand Isle County, especially those in North Hero, South Hero, and Grand Isle.

Chittenden County schools are closer and more accessible for many families. Redirecting students would create longer commutes, increased transportation challenges, and daily disruptions that affect work schedules, after-school care, and family stability.

Most families in Grand Isle County work in Chittenden County. School placements that pull families in the opposite direction create real logistical and economic hardship and disproportionately impact working families. School placement outside of Chittenden County would significantly limit the ability of children to participate in extracurricular activities which are significantly impactful on their growth and development. Our family loves Grand Isle County and want to see it continue to grow and support our local families. This proposed draft will likely deter families from choosing to locate in Grand Isle County and further limit the growth of our community.

I respectfully urge you to revise the draft map so that families in North Hero, South Hero, and the Town of Grand Isle retain the option to send their children to South Burlington, Colchester, or Essex schools. This flexibility supports students' families and the long-term health of our community.

Thank you for your time and for considering the voices of the families who are directly affected.

Sincerely

Rachael Marston