

From: Hannah Pingree  
To: Susan Gendron  
Date: Dec 16, 2007 10:59 AM  
Re: DoE response to the MDI RPC

Commissioner Gendron,

I just saw the letter that was sent to MDI regarding the disapproval of their consolidation plan. The reasons why the plan was turned down completely contradict the long negotiations that occurred in my office and the very specific conversations we had about the rights and powers that could be delegated to the K-8 schools. I had been in contact with your office on this plan and I am extremely frustrated this plan has been rejected.

I hope to speak with you about this process as soon as possible and hope the state can work to accept this plan. Otherwise, I will support further efforts in the legislature to amend the school consolidation bill to allow the kind of structure MDI has submitted. Again, I believe the elements of this plan were clearly understood even before we voted for the original bill and you had accepted allowing complete delegation of k-8 powers to local school boards, as long as the budget was voted on by the whole RSU district. If this is not allowable under the law, I feel that our negotiations prior to closing the budget were not in good faith.

Sorry to be so strong about this, but clearly this is an important and emotional topic for our constituents and as a representative, I feel that this issue represents a clear violation of our understandings.

Best,  
Hannah Pingree