



OFFICE OF  
SELECTMEN

# The Town Of Newington New Hampshire

Established 1713

Commission members  
Commission on Education Funding

August 12, 2020

Commission members,

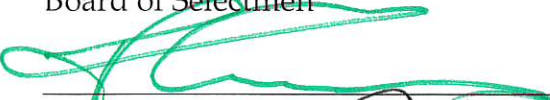
The Town of Newington has been described as a "property rich" town whose citizens pay a lower local property tax toward the costs of educating its students than do other towns. But this limited characterization overlooks the full picture for the Town of Newington.

Some proposals to change school funding in New Hampshire propose a decrease in state funding to towns such as Newington by requiring that unspent SWEPT funds be returned to the State Education Trust Fund.

What the Town of Newington would like the Commission to consider is that while Newington may have lower property tax rates for education, it has significant challenges in other areas that are frequently overlooked by those who focus only on education spending. In particular, a great deal of industry, a tank farm and power generation plants have been located in Newington. While these industries benefit the entire State, they present environmental challenges for the residents of Newington. The pollution negatively affects the Town; its citizens must endure pollution and the environmental degradation potentially effects property values and the power generation plants do not pay the state education tax.

The overall costs for Newington and its residents due to these environmental impacts are real and disproportionately felt by the Town of Newington. In evaluating apportionment of costs for education funding, it is only fair to also consider the other types of costs Newington pays for the energy benefits that all citizens of New Hampshire receive from location of these plants in Newington. The Town of Newington is therefore opposed to change in education funding that would reduce the share of State funding Newington receives.

Board of Selectmen

  
Timothy "Ted" Connors, Chair

  
Kenneth Latchaw, Selectman

  
Michael Marconi, Selectman