

**MAINE MARITIME ACADEMY**  
**CASTINE, MAINE 04420**



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Representative Ted Koffman  
168 Mill Brook Rd.  
Bar Harbor, ME 04609

Dear Representative Koffman:

Thank you for your recent letter addressed to elected officials, Selectmen, school board members and citizens of Castine, concerning the school consolidation issue.

There is no doubt that Maine faces escalating school costs, as all costs are escalating. There is no doubt that Maine has smaller enrollment numbers than the national average.

There is no doubt that there are areas in the state budget that are bloated, but I strongly disagree that it is in the education budget. You only have to visit a school to see that there is no excess cash floating around.

The solution to this problem is not to consolidate school districts in order to bring our enrollment more nearly in line with a national average. Surely you don't believe that increased student/teacher ratio is a positive step for education? As a teacher I can assure you it is not.

I challenge you to find any other budget area that is more important than the education of our children. If small, local schools are expensive, so be it. Education is not a business. The people of Maine are stakeholders, not stockholders, in the education process. Small schools like the Adams School are extraordinary places, not expensive places.

If consolidation were to go through, small towns like Castine likely would lose our representation on the governing school board. Surely you see that that is no solution to improving our school? No one from Ellsworth will understand our issues and concerns the way we do. We need local schools, with local governance, not remote control.

Please do not support this very destructive plan of consolidation.

Sincerely,

G. Andy Chase