



Coalition Letter in Support of S.B. 7

Date: March 3, 2026

To: The honorable members of the Connecticut General Assembly Education Committee

We, the undersigned municipal leaders from small towns across the NHCOCG region, write in strong support of S.B. 7 – An Act Concerning Educational Equity.

For far too long, Connecticut's education funding formula has failed to keep pace with inflation, rising operational costs, special education mandates, transportation expenses, and the true cost of educating students.

Small towns rely heavily on residential property taxes. When the state underestimates the Education Cost Sharing (ECS) foundation amount, the burden shifts directly to local taxpayers and hurts other services that have to be cut or substantially diminished in order to balance and pass a local budget.

We support increasing the foundation amount to reflect economic reality and eliminating the Minimum Budget Requirement (MBR), which no longer aligns with enrollment trends in many small municipalities.

We also respectfully request guaranteed representation from small towns on the education funding working group to ensure geographic and fiscal diversity in future funding reforms.

Educational equity must include municipal equity. **We urge swift passage of S.B. 7**

Respectfully submitted,

Members of the Northwest Hills Council of Governments (NHCOC)

Signatories of Chief Elected Officials

Municipality Represented

David R. Berger

Town of Canaan

Meaghan Cook

Town of Barkhamsted

Denise Raap

Town of Litchfield

James L. Brinton

Town of Washington

Henry D. Tirrell

Town of Norfolk

Casey T. Flanagan

Town of Sharon

Greg LaCava

Town of Warren

Douglas K Thompson

Town of Burlington

Patrick Roy

Town of Roxbury

Magi Winslow

Town of Hartland

February 17, 2026

Dear First Selectman Dave Barger,

I am writing to express my concern about the ongoing amount of dog feces that is around our town streets, personal property and on sidewalks uncollected.

I walk my own dog at least two to three times a day, seven days a week rain, snow or shine around town and the amount of feces is unbelievable. Yes, at times I do pick up other dog feces but get tired of doing so every day and know of other respectful dog owners that do the same.

Its is ours to maintain as dog owners.

Think of it this way, Do you want someones dog leaving a pile of poop in your yard or on your sidewalk that someone steps in and tracks everywhere. I don't think so, So don't do it here in our town. Have respect.

You do have a poop station in an appropriate area but heading out of town on main street is awful as well as many of our other streets, businesses and other personal property. Spring is arriving. More signs of folks bringing their pets with them.

This is a recurring issue that I see day in and out. This recurring problem has created an unsanitary, unsafe and unsightly sight for our residents in our neighborhood.

The accumulation of pet waste presents a public risk, as it can contain harmful bacteria. Animal waste is not only unpleasant, but can harm the environment and spread disease. (E. Col I, Giardia) -(Bacteria and Parasites)

Maintaining a clean and pleasant environment is something of great value to our beautiful town.

I kindly request your cooperation and the town in ensuring that any pet waste from our own citizens and out of town owners understand that this is shameful, disgusting and we need to do better that pet waste is promptly removed.

Thought:

Maybe several signs throughout or town saying: **Please do your part: Always carry waste bags when walking your dog.** Dispose of used bags in nearest bin or take home. **(A fine if caught, Maybe more poop disposal bins, A notice from town in local paper? or On Town Web Page?) This could help.**

Thank you in consideration of this matter at hand,
Sincerely,

Diane Polanis and
Phoebe The Dog
Falls Village Resident

Falls Village **CAR AND MOTORCYCLE SHOW**

March 9, 2026

Town of Canaan Board of Selectmen
P.O. Box 47
Falls Village, CT 06031

Dear Dave and Chris,

Plans are underway to hold the 16th Falls Village Car & Motorcycle Show on July 12 this year and we will be celebrating America's 250th anniversary with a patriotic theme this year!

On behalf of the Falls Village Car and Motorcycle Show committee members & Jacobs Garage, I would like to request that the Town allows us to once again close the roads downtown to designate that area to parking of show vehicles and to use town property for parking and other activities. We will continue to be sensitive to the residents in the Village center to make this as unobtrusive as possible for them. We are very fortunate that the residents have been so supportive of this event.

For the past four years the proceeds have gone to the Housatonic Valley FFA, each year raising over \$14,000 for that organization. They have applied the funds to their various programs, including funding a scholarship program for students going into the trades.

The FFA has also donated some of the proceeds to the Falls Village Volunteer Fire Department for all the help the Fire Department does at the Car Show. Other organizations in our town have organized activities during the show and it has become an important fundraising opportunity for them as well. Overall, it has become a great source of fundraising while showcasing our little town in such a positive way.

We will once again hire a professional traffic control company to work the Rte. 7 & Rte. 126 junction. This has become an increasingly busy spot and we felt that professionals could handle this area best, relieving volunteers of manning this difficult area. Last year, it was a great help and we may expand their coverage this year.

We hope that the Board of Selectmen will once again support the Car Show and enable us to continue with this popular community event. We take great pleasure in bringing this event to our little village and showcasing what a wonderful town we have. It has been rated as number 5 best car show out of over 350 shows in Connecticut and one of the best in New England. The visitors truly love it here!

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Judy Jacobs