

Roxanne Maher

From: Jay Hartling <jhartling@ledyard.net>
Sent: Friday, March 6, 2026 8:14 AM
To: Senator Cathy Osten
Cc: Board of Education; Town Council Group
Subject: SB 416 – Impact on Ledyard Public Schools

Dear Senator Osten,

I am writing to express concern and regarding SB 416, particularly the requirement that diesel school buses operate on a minimum B20 biodiesel blend beginning October 1, 2026 until fleets transition to zero-emission buses.

For Ledyard Public Schools, this requirement would create both operational and financial challenges. Our district is already contractually committed to diesel fuel purchasing for the upcoming year, meaning we would have limited ability to adjust without incurring additional costs. More importantly, Connecticut's winter temperatures create a real reliability concern for B20 biodiesel blends, which are far more susceptible to fuel gelling and operational failure in cold conditions. School buses must start and run reliably every morning to safely transport students.

To prevent fuel issues in winter, biodiesel blends often require kerosene blending or other treatments, which significantly increases cost while also reducing fuel efficiency, forcing buses to burn more fuel to travel the same distance.

For districts like Ledyard, these added fuel and maintenance costs would ultimately divert limited education dollars away from classrooms and student services.

While we support responsible environmental progress, this mandate creates another costly and potentially unreliable interim requirement for school transportation systems. Secondly, the electric bus situation is still in so much flux, making that transition is both incredibly expensive and another unreliable change for our community. Our busing costs are already stretching our budgets.

I respectfully urge careful reconsideration of this provision in SB 416 given the practical and financial impact on districts like Ledyard.

As always I'm available to discuss further if you would like. Thank you for your consideration.

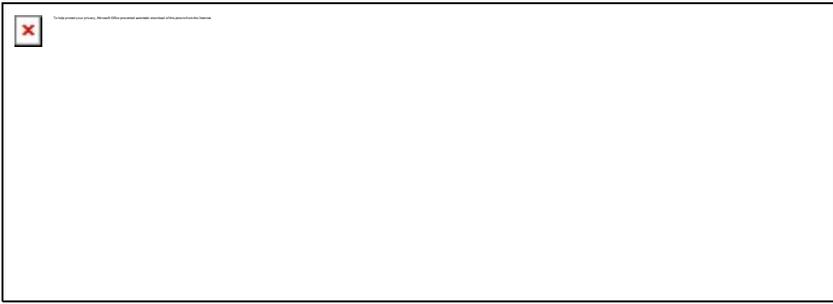
Sincerely, Jay

Jason S. Hartling

Superintendent

Ledyard Public Schools

“Believing in the unlimited potential of every student”



My working hours may vary from your working hours. Unless it is an identified emergency, please do not feel obligated to respond outside of your work schedule.