

GRANITE STATE FAIR TAX COALITION
PO Box 3431, Concord, NH 03302
www.nhfairtax.org

March 9, 2011

The Honorable Lynne Ober, Chair
House Special Committee on Education Funding Reform

Re: CACR12 as amended

Dear Representative Ober and Committee Members:

The Granite State Fair Tax Coalition is a nonprofit, nonpartisan coalition of groups and individuals that reaches over 70,000 people across the state. We advocate for a more effective revenue structure for New Hampshire, one that raises enough to meet the state's needs in a way that everyone pays their share.

The Granite State Fair Tax Coalition urges the committee to recommend CACR 12 as amended Inexpedient to Legislate.

For all the reasons outlined in our testimony on CACR 12 on February 18, the Coalition believes CACR 12 is bad for New Hampshire. The amendment makes it even worse, because it gives the legislature authority and full discretion with no accountability or responsibility.

CACR 12 was already an assault on two fundamental principles of our democracy: separation of powers and public education; the amendment is even more extreme.

CACR 12 as amended allows, even encourages, the legislature to duck its responsibility for providing adequate public education for every child in the state. Which is to say, its responsibility for raising the revenues necessary to do so.

CACR 12 as amended will pit town against town, and force school districts to hire lobbyists. Will taxpayer dollars pay for these lobbyists? If so, the costs downshifted onto cities and towns by CACR 12 just got even more expensive.

New Hampshire is one of the wealthiest states in the country with one of the lowest tax burdens in the country. Our state has the resources to provide an excellent education to every child, but our outdated revenue system doesn't tap them.

The solution to New Hampshire's education funding challenges is not to carve in constitutional stone permission--indeed, incentive--not to fund public education for every child in the state. The solution is revenue reform that raises the funds necessary to do so and thus enables the legislature to fulfill its responsibilities to the people.

We urge the committee to uphold the values enshrined in our constitution and recommend CACR 12 as amended inexpedient to legislate.

Respectfully,
Cathy Silber, executive director
Granite State Fair Tax Coalition

The Granite State Fair Tax Coalition is a nonpartisan, nonprofit, 501(c)3 organization whose members include American Friends Service Committee NH, Episcopal Diocese of New Hampshire, League of Women Voters of New Hampshire, NEA-New Hampshire, Northern New England District Unitarian Universalist Association, State Employee's Association (SEIU Local 1984), United Church of Christ, Commission for Witness and Action, and over 1,000 individuals across the state.