

July 19, 2010

Board of Education
Preston Public Schools
325 Shetucket Tpke
Preston, CT 06365

RE: STATEMENT FOR PUBLIC COMMENT:
School Officials Should Listen to the People
Before Voting to Outsource Bus Services

My name is Rebecca Boenig, and I live at 200 Route 2-A here in Preston. I'm a school bus driver and an employee of the board, and my co-workers and I take pride in the safe, reliable services we provide to the children of Preston and their families.

We are here presenting a petition signed by hundreds of members of our community. **This petition sends a clear message that the residents of Preston don't want their school transportation services contracted-out.**

They feel that no decision to outsource should be made without a full public hearing on this critical issue.

We agree.

As you know, residents voted unanimously to keep school bus services local at a Special Town Meeting in April. Now they are saying it again, and they want you to listen.

Our school bus drivers are not just numbers on a balance sheet. We are residents; we are taxpayers; and we are parents, too.

As a member of our Union's Negotiating Committee, I am surprised that no one from the school board has been at negotiations.

It seems that you have been so focused on moving outsourcing forward that you aren't listening. We should all share the same goal; the best school transportation services possible. That's what we should be talking about.

Not only have you not been listening to us, your employees, but we worry that you aren't listening to the rest of the community.

Make the right decision and listen to the people of Preston.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Rebecca Boenig

School Bus Driver, Preston Public Schools

Member, Preston Bus Drivers & Mechanics Chapter, CSEA/SEIU Local 2001

Enclosures

cc: Members, Preston Board of Selectmen
Members, Executive Council, CSEA/SEIU Local 2001

RB:dmo