

***Regional Planning Committee for Union 49, Union 74, and Jefferson***

C/o School Union No. 74  
767 Main Street  
Damariscotta, ME 04543

January 31, 2008

Susan A. Gendron, Commissioner  
Maine Department of Education  
23 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Commissioner Gendron:

On January 15, the Regional Planning Committee for School Union No. 49, School Union No. 74, and Jefferson unanimously voted to temporarily suspend the work towards the development of the plan for a new Regional School Unit.

This decision is a result of the frustration and disappointment at the severe lack of clear direction and leadership that the Regional Planning Committee has received from the State. The continued changing landscape of expectations and decisions by the Department of Education and the Legislature's Education and Cultural Affairs Committee has made continued work by our Regional Planning Committee virtually impossible.

Once our Regional Planning Committee receives clear and rational guidance for the requirements, parameters and timelines of the plans, we will reconvene to try to craft a plan that makes sense for these communities.

We urge our Legislature to act quickly, wisely, and with reasonable expectations so that we may develop a coherent and sensible plan that will ultimately benefit the children in our region. Thank you for your consideration and prompt action.

Sincerely,

F. Parker Renelt  
Chair of the RPC

Stephen Ward  
Vice Chair of the RPC