

THE HILLSBORO-DEERING FEDERATION OF TEACHERS
AFT#2348, AFT-NH, AFL-CIO

A. Luhtjarv - President
K. Channon - V. President



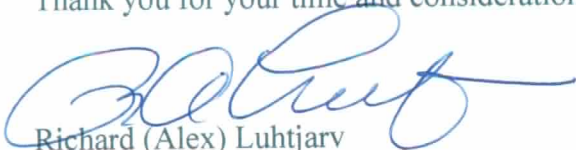
S. Martin – Treasurer
G. McLay – Secretary

“Serving those who serve our students.”

Dear Senator Avard,

I am writing to you as my State Senator and asking you to vote no on SB 11. I am a Republican, but also the President of a local teachers' union. While many may feel that those two positions are contradictory, I do not. The reasons why I am both are very similar - I feel the Republican party AND labor unions protect the value of hard work. I was taught that the key to lifelong success was giving it 110% in school and at work. As a teacher, I pass on those values. However, in my 17 years as an educator, I have been a witness to many situations where quality teachers have been subjected to unfair decisions in which the union was their only defender. There is value in that service to defend hard work. I have also been a part of three different negotiating teams and each time, we worked together with the district to negotiate fiscally responsible contracts with fair pay and benefits while trying to mitigate the burden on taxpayers. There is value in that service to reward families of workers who have dedicated their careers to helping their students become productive members of the community. Right to work bills are shortsighted. Our union currently has 100% participation among the teachers of our district. All of our teachers have benefited from the services provided by their local union. We use dues to help support that local work in advocacy of member interests and through collective bargaining. We also use dues to contribute to local charities and organizations, such as the food pantry and local youth athletic association. Right to work would undermine our ability to continue to be a positive presence in our community. I hope that as a fellow Republican, you will read this letter, and 1. Consider voting against SB 11, but also 2. Realize that the stereotypes that exist about unions in 2017 are just not accurate.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

 1/8/17
Richard (Alex) Luhtjarv
PO Box (32 Goodall Rd.)
Rindge, NH
(603) 899-6278