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SEAFORD UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOARD OF EDUCATION • 1600 WASHINGTON AVENUE • SEAFORD • NEW YORK • 11783 • (516) 592-4012

**By Mail and Fax (518-474-1513)**

April 17, 2023

The Honorable Kathy Hochul  
Governor of New York  
NYS Capitol Building  
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Hochul:

We write concerning your proposed Housing Compact Plan which purports to address the affordable housing crisis in New York State. While many can agree that a lack of affordable housing is a pressing issue in this State, we respectfully submit that all communities would be better served if it were addressed in a collaborative way. A “one size fits all” approach will yield serious and unintended consequences that will negatively impact our town and school district for many years to come.

Seaford is a small, family-oriented town on the South Shore of Long Island that is known for its tight-knit community and excellence in education. The Seaford School District is committed to providing robust educational programs and competitive campuses that effectively utilize the precious and scarce space we have across our four school buildings. Although your attempt to address housing problems may be well-intended, increasing the number of families in our town will undoubtedly burden our infrastructure and overcrowd our schools. Our District simply does not have the means or the space to build the additional infrastructure necessary to support a large number of new students plus our current student population. Our buildings are already at full capacity and our demographic study shows steady enrollment for the next nine years. The financial burden associated with a lack of physical space to house additional students would be outrageous for our District.

Not only do we not have the physical space to educate additional students but absorbing new students without expanding the tax base to fund their education would be devastating to our schools and our community as it would impose a strangling burden on our budget. Equally devastating would be to raise taxes to off-set this financial burden as Long Island already has some of the highest taxes in the country.

As a District, the safety and support of our students, faculty and staff are paramount. Overcrowding our schools and straining our budget has the potential to negatively impact our security plans and our Pupil Personnel Department. As you know, students everywhere suffered social and emotional trauma and education loss resulting from the disruption to schools during the COVID-19 pandemic. As a District, we acknowledge and prioritize social and emotional supports, not because they are now state mandates, but because we seek to educate and support the whole child and optimize their chances to have happy and successful futures. The plan you are proposing would negatively impact the initiatives this State sought to advance.

The Seaford Board of Education has a moral and fiduciary duty as elected community members to support or advocate against initiatives that do not serve the best interests of our residents who entrust us with their children and with their tax dollars. Accordingly, we ask that you abandon the Housing Compact Plan as written.

Sincerely,

Seaford Board of Education and the Superintendent of Schools

*Andrea Parisi*  
Andrea Parisi, President

*Dr. Adele V. Pecora*  
Superintendent of Schools

*Stacie Stark*  
Stacie Stark, Vice President

*Lisa Herbert*  
Lisa Herbert, Trustee

*Natalie Pedisich*  
Natalie Pedisich, Trustee

*Heather Umhafer*  
Heather Umhafer, Trustee

cc: Assemblyman David G. McDonough  
State Senator Steven D. Rhoads  
Nassau County Legislator Michael J. Giangregorio  
Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman  
Town Supervisor Don Clavin