

My name is Nicole Case, and I am the principal at Machias Memorial High School. Our school system is the fiscal agent for Coastal Washington County Institute of Technology, otherwise known as CWCIT. Machias Memorial High School currently houses three technical education programs. We are proud of the growth that CWCIT has experienced. It is a successful program that has represented collaboration between multiple communities in Washington County.

Tiffany Strout has submitted a bill to redirect the fiscal responsibility of CWCIT from Machias Schools to RSU 37. She has done so without directly communicating with stakeholders in the Machias area. To the best of my knowledge, she has not communicated with the Machias School Board, the Machias Selectmen, the CWCIT teachers located in Machias, or the public that votes on the CWCIT budget.

A process for making changes such as this exists in statute. Chapter 20-A, subsection 8307-A clearly defines a protocol for change. It seems as though Representative Strout is making an effort to circumvent a process put in place to ensure that the voices of her constituents are heard.

Submission of this bill feels like a breach of trust, and I am opposed to this bill.