

HB-5777

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*The Town of Windsor Locks*  
*Home of Bradley International Airport*

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Dear Commerce Committee Chairman & Members,

The question of the hour is: "Why allow municipalities to place a use tax on hotel/motel rooms?"

The answers are many:

1. Alleviates the property tax burden in the municipality
2. Offsets the shifting revenue stream that comes out of the Capitol each session
3. The tax will not have an effect on most of the citizens of the municipality
4. Most cities in other states allow for the state, county, borough, precinct and/or municipality to implement a use tax on rooms
5. The tax will not stifle business or tourist travel as alluded by the detractors

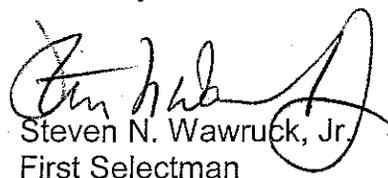
When municipalities only have the property tax to offset rising expenses and to offset the level on shrinking revenue from the State, the Use Tax allows for a source of revenue that has, at best, a minimal impact on local residents.

With each hotel/motel room a strain is put on the municipality with an increase in population, increased traffic, and emergency services, such as our municipality fire, police and ambulance responding to a fair share of calls.

I believe that the tax is a revenue producer for the municipality to allow relief of the property tax burden placed on the residents within the municipality.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

  
Steven N. Wawruck, Jr.  
First Selectman