My name is Jennifer L. Ezzell, from Lisbon CT.

I am here today to express my concern over the tax increases, proposed by Gov. Malloy. We simply cannot afford them. We, personally, have not had a pay increase in a couple of years, in fact have seen a decrease of income, and we are not alone.

We are being told that it will only average about $1.00 a day. Well my granddaughter was born on February 24, 2011, gas (in my area) was about $3.27 per gallon, 11 days later it is $3.65 per gallon, in some parts of CT it is already over the $4.00 mark, and we haven't hit the hurricane/summer season. Using just 3 gallons a day, will put us beyond what the Governor proposes to tax us. In 2008 we experienced these prices and bubbles started bursting. Our disposable income went down drastically, then... as it has now. Those of us, who live in rural areas are not able to simply walk, or hop on a bus, to get to the store, work, doctors, etc.

Food prices are rising, in addition to receiving less product for our money. A few months ago, we were warned that clothing prices would be going up by Spring.

Just were does the government think we, the citizens of CT, are going to get the money to pay our bills and live? Never mind spend the little extra that will help spur the economy on?

Raising taxes on the people and businesses in CT is not the answer to the government's financial future, it will be the exact opposite. If CT needs more money, than the current billions it already receives, then the government needs to figure out a way to attract, not only businesses, but people of means. CT needs to make our state as attractive as possible... raising taxes on people & businesses is not the way to do it. CT is not in competition with just NY, MA, RI & NJ... we are in competition

with NH, FL, TX, and every other state that is business & citizen friendly.

In the meantime, I suggest that the state learn to live within the billions that is already sent into their coffers. Stop the spending on "wants"... work on only the "needs". Cut out the wasteful spending, focus on only critical needs, not fanciful wants.