

This testimony is regarding Proposed Bill #5953, AN ACT CONCERNING  
DELINQUENT MUNICIPAL PROPERTY TAXES AND THE REGISTRATION OF  
MOTOR VEHICLES.

Gisela Harma, CCMC  
Stonington Tax Collector  
Chairman, CTx Legislative Committee

As a Tax Collector I am opposed to this legislation because it would mean the loss of the most valuable tool we have to collect motor vehicle tax. As a result it would mean less revenue to the town because of a lower collection rate for motor vehicle tax. Allowing a taxpayer to pay only on the vehicle being registered allows a delinquent to use the services of a town while the other taxpayers carry the burden of funding the town budget for those services.

Because the State of Connecticut has two year registrations for motor vehicles, taxpayers have motor vehicles with different renewal dates. They could conceivably pay only half (or less than half) the tax they owe every year. Also, if they purchase a different car with a brand new registration they could avoid tax completely on their previous registrations.

In Stonington we currently pay the DMV approximately \$3400 per year for the ability to report delinquent taxpayers and to have registrations withheld if taxes are not paid. We have found this to be an invaluable service so we have continued to pay the fee. If we could not withhold registrations we would have little or no leverage with regard to collection.

This proposed bill is an ill conceived idea which will only benefit the delinquent taxpayer who prefers to not pay his lawful obligation to the municipality. It will certainly mean lost revenue to the towns and make it necessary ultimately for the timely taxpayers to make up the difference. We respectfully request that you not take away this valuable tool for tax collectors and reject Proposed Bill #5953.

Thank you.

Gisela Harma, CCMC  
Stonington Tax Collector  
Chairman, CTx Legislative Committee