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Testimony of Representative Jonathan Steinberg
Transportation Committee
February 17, 2011

**HB-5949: AN ACT INSTITUTING TOLL CHARGES FOR TRUCKS USING
CT INTERSTATE HIGHWAYS.**

Representative Guerrero, Senator Maynard and distinguished members of the Transportation Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 5949: AN ACT INSTITUTING TOLL CHARGES FOR TRUCKS USING CT INTERSTATE HIGHWAYS.

Imposing toll charges for trucks traveling Connecticut's interstate highways is hardly a new idea. The 2009 report on Connecticut Electronic Tolling and Congestion Pricing Study offers a detailed analysis of the pro's and con's of such a proposal. Nor is this bill intended to provide an instant revenue generator, particularly given the large startup costs involved in implementing a toll system on our major highways.

But Connecticut's congestion problems are only getting worse. There are spots on each of our major interstates that back up regularly -- without accidents or construction and often at times well before or after rush hours. It's hard to dispute that truck volume plays a significant role in exacerbating these frequent tie ups. It's also reasonable to assert that large trucks are disproportionately hard on our roads.

Connecticut stands out as a state on the eastern highway corridor that doesn't charge tolls, which is a bit surprising given all the through traffic to New England and back. The advent of EZ-pass or GPS-based systems make arguments regarding increased road accidents from toll booth slowdowns less compelling.

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