



State of Connecticut

SENATE

STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

SENATOR MICHAEL A. McLACHLAN
TWENTY-FOURTH SENATE DISTRICT

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LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Senator Maynard, Representative Guerrero and distinguished members of the committee,

I am State Senator Michael McLachlan, and I am here to speak against Senate Bill 31, and House Bills 5949, 6136, and 6200. All of these bills address placing tolls on the roads of Connecticut.

Three of the four towns in my district are along the Connecticut-New York border. It has been shown that Danbury will be one of the most effected cities by the installation of tolls. Installing tolls would not reduce congestion; in fact it would have the opposite effect on local roads. Drivers will travel local roads in order to avoid tolls. An estimated 13,800 vehicles a day will revert to this practice **just** at the border change on Interstate 84 in Danbury.

Such diversion to smaller, local roads causes immense wear. Projects to restore the damage will inevitably be required and will put a strain on our already strained local budgets.

There is also projected environmental damage due to congestion. Indirect adverse impact on wetlands, watercourses, and stream flow are likely to be caused from the diversion of traffic to our local roads.

Furthermore, placing tolls at our border poses potential constitutional problems for the state. This placement could be a violation of the Commerce Clause of the United State Constitution, which could prompt difficult and costly legal battles.

Also, placing tolls on already existing highways has never been done, and is currently barred by federal rules.

Finally, when the tolls were removed in 1983, the federal government paid for any highway repair that was caused by the removal. Installing tolls again would put the state in a place where we may need to repay the federal government for any funds that were used for that damage. That is a dangerous proposition in our current financial situation.

I have enclosed a map with the projected locations of for tolls through out my Senate District. It shows the real impact that highways and local roads would face when every road between Connecticut and New York needs to have a toll installed.

I urge the committee to vote down any bills addressing the installation of tolls in our state in order to keep our highways and local roads safe and clear for our drivers.

Thank you,

Michael A. McLachlan
Senator – 24th District

I-84 Tolls Impact On Local Roads

Sherman

Anderson Road
Briggs Hill Road
Chapel Hill Road
Hardscrabble Road
Route 55
Taber Road
Wakeman Road

New Fairfield

Ball Pond Road
Fairfield Drive
Gillotti Road
Haviland Hollow Road
Milltown Road
Route 37

Danbury

Aunt Hack Road
Joe's Hill Road
Kenosia Avenue
King Street
Middle River Road
Mill Plain Road
Miry Brook Road
Old Mill Plain Road
Old Ridgebury Road
Saw Mill Road
Tanglewood Drive
West King Street

Ridgefield

Chestnut Hill Road
George Washington Highway
Ridgebury Road

