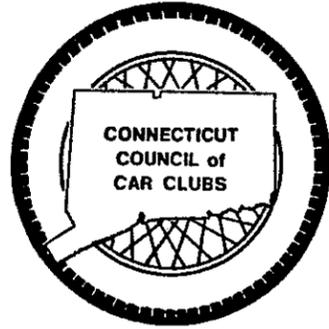


## S.B. 843



Connecticut Council of Car Clubs  
Dave Bajumpaa  
17 Mullen Road  
East Windsor Connecticut  
March 4, 2013

Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee  
Room 3700, Legislative Office Building  
Hartford, Connecticut 06106

Subject: **Opposition to Senate Bill 843, "An Act Concerning Revenue Items to Implement the Governor's Budget."**

Dear State Senator/Representative:

The Connecticut Council of Car Clubs (4C's) is an association of approximately 35 Connecticut Car Clubs that monitors legislation in the state. We represent on the order of 2000 antique auto hobbyists in Connecticut. The 4C's Board of Directors is comprised of volunteer auto hobbyists.

The 4C's is opposed to Section 15 of Senate Bill 843 that proposes to eliminate the maximum assessed value of \$500 of an antique, rare or special interest motor vehicle currently contained in Subsection (b) of section 12-71 of the general statutes. With this proposed elimination, an antique motor vehicle would be treated in the same manner as a modern motor vehicle with respect to the local property tax assessment. We believe that antique motor vehicles should be treated differently than modern motor vehicles, and that the current statute is appropriate as written, considering that antique auto hobbyists already pay their fair share of local property taxes on the modern motor vehicles we use as primary transportation. Also, we believe the proposed change is not warranted considering the significant benefits the antique auto hobby provides to the community and business in the state.

Antique auto hobbyists in this state have modern motor vehicles that are used as primary transportation. These vehicles are subject to the same property taxes that everyone else in the state pays. Because of this, antique auto hobbyists are already paying their fair share of property taxes on motor vehicles. Antique motor vehicles are well-maintained, infrequently operated hobby cars and deserving of continued property tax benefits. Other hobbies, such as artwork, antique furniture, stamps, coins, rare books, home theater systems, jewelry, sports collectibles, etc. are not currently and should not be subject to taxation. As a hobby, antique motor vehicles should not be unfairly singled out for taxation.

The antique auto hobbyist provides benefits to the community that many other hobbies don't provide. There are several car shows each weekend in the state throughout the late spring, summer, and early fall. These car shows occur in numerous municipalities throughout the state, including East Hampton, Manchester, Middletown, New Britain, Norwich, Southbury, Stafford Springs, and Stratford. These car shows benefit local charities and organizations. These shows result in significant revenues to these charities and organizations. In addition to car shows on the weekends, there are cruise nights in Connecticut on every weeknight throughout the late spring, summer, and early fall.

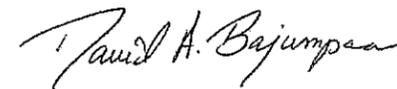
Cruise nights occur in many municipalities throughout the state, including East Granby, Hamden, New London, and Westport. These car shows and cruise nights result in increased spending at restaurants and local business throughout the state, indirectly helping increase state revenues. Additionally, the use of antique autos in local parades and other town functions throughout the state provide a positive benefit to the community. Increasing the assessed value of an antique, rare or special interest motor vehicle would have an adverse impact on the antique auto hobby that provides these significant benefits to the state.

If enacted, Section 15 of Senate Bill 843 will cause the Connecticut antique auto hobbyist to reconsider whether we could afford to maintain our existing antique cars and/or restore additional cars. The antique auto hobby supports an entire industry in the state that relies on the revenue generated by the restoration and maintenance of antique vehicles. These businesses are located throughout the state, including East Windsor, Fairfield, Old Saybrook, Portland, and Westbrook. Section 15 of Senate Bill 843 is adverse to those businesses that the antique auto hobby supports. These businesses create and maintain jobs that are vital in these difficult economic times. Those jobs will be threatened if this is enacted.

The value of each individual antique motor vehicle is different. As such, determining the value of an antique motor vehicle for the purposes of assessing property tax is an extremely difficult one that would introduce significant and unique challenges for both the municipal property tax assessors and the antique auto hobbyist. The value of an antique vehicle is extremely subjective and dependent upon many factors, including condition of the individual vehicle. Determining a reasonable assessed value of each antique motor vehicle in the State would impose an unwarranted burden on both the municipal property tax assessors and the antique auto hobbyists.

The 4C's respectfully requests that the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee maintain Subsection (b) of section 12-71 of the general statutes as currently written, and reject Section 15 of Senate Bill 843 that proposes to eliminate the maximum assessed value for an antique, rare or special interest motor vehicle.

Very Truly Yours,



Dave Bajumpaa  
Connecticut Council of Car Clubs