

March 1, 2013

Lisa Napolitano  
Columbia, CT

Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee  
Room 2E, Legislative Office Building  
300 Capitol Avenue  
Hartford, CT 06106

Re: Senate Bill 843, An Act Concerning Revenue Items to Implement the Governor's Budget and the motor vehicle tax exemption which would apply to the first \$20,000 of assessed value on any motor vehicle

Dear Committee Members,

I am very concerned about the effect that Governor Malloy's proposal could have on our State. I understand the desire to help people who are most affected by the current economic climate but I believe that this proposal would eventually hurt those it is targeted to help. I see the proposal as short-sighted, not considering possible unintentional consequences.

As a homeowner, business owner and member of the Columbia Board of Education, I am concerned about the consequences that this proposal could have on the tax revenue of our towns, their budgets, residents and businesses. Municipalities are already struggling to fund education and town services; the loss of this revenue could be devastating. Services will need to be cut while business and real estate taxes would have to be increased to make up for the budget short-fall. Many homeowners are already struggling to pay their mortgages and businesses are struggling to keep up with rising operational costs. In response to higher business taxes, employers may reduce the number of employees or close altogether leading to higher unemployment rates. Landlords will increase rents to make up for the increase in taxes; already beyond the affordability of many. The cost of energy, fuel, insurance, food, and clothing continues to rise at a rate beyond salary increases. There are significant numbers of people in the private sector who are not getting automatic salary increases, pensions and healthcare, living paycheck to paycheck. Businesses have seen costs rise, profits dwindle with ballooning red tape and regulation. How can the citizens and businesses of Connecticut continue on this downward spiral with no bottom in sight? Why should they?

My husband and I have a wholesale, manufacturing company in Willimantic employing 9 people. After almost 16 years we are at a point that buying a building is the next logical step. The sad fact is; we are considering buying a building...in another state. The cost of doing business in Connecticut is hindering our ability to compete with similar manufacturers in other parts of the country. I have lived in Connecticut for my entire life and in Columbia for over 2 decades with strong ties to our property and our community. But there comes a point when staying the course becomes imprudent and intolerable.

I request that this proposal be cut from the budget. I implore that a budget be developed that will reduce the burden on all taxpayers with thoughtful cuts in spending. Each department of state government should be encouraged to reduce spending and trim waste. Families in Connecticut have been trimming the fat for several years, we need the state to step up and do the same.

In addition, there are states that are rebounding from the recession. I believe that Connecticut should employ some of their successful strategies. Then maybe we can become the thriving place to raise a family that we once were.

Sincerely,  
Lisa Napolitano