



Town of Andover, Connecticut

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March 4, 2013

The Honorable State Representatives
Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06105

Comments from Andover First Selectman on proposed SB 843

Ladies and Gentlemen;

The proposal for the elimination of car taxes would be a disaster for the Town of Andover. The car tax collected in Andover amounts to 10.23% of the town's Grand List.

81% of our budget is allocated to the schools leaving only 19% to run all town services. Andover has very few businesses so almost all increases come from property owners. The elimination of the revenue from car taxes would cause a substantial increase in real estate taxes, over \$500 for most households. Our seniors with fixed incomes without cars or own older cars, who paid minimal car taxes, will be faced with a higher real estate bill. Many residents are living with tight budgets. An increase in real estate taxes is significant to their keeping their homes.

The Governor commented that tax collection for motor vehicles is poor. In my town we have a collection rate of 95% for motor vehicles. The fact that a person cannot register their car if those taxes are not paid is an aid to the town in collection.

The elimination of revenue from the PILOT program and the two year elimination of the Pequot/Mohegan grant will also impact the local tax rate. How much does the Governor and Legislators think the small town residents can absorb?

I urge the legislature not to pass this proposal. The ramification to small towns is not a tax reduction. It is the transfer of taxation to real estate taxes and an increase in taxes for residents least able to pay them.

Robert F. Burbank
First Selectman
Town of Andover