



**Testimony  
Barbara Henry  
First Selectman  
Town of Roxbury  
Before the Finance, Revenue & Bonding Committee  
March 4, 2013**

▪ **SB-843, AN ACT CONCERNING REVENUE ITEMS TO IMPLEMENT THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET**

Connecticut's small towns and cities are facing another brutal budget year and any cuts in state aid or any loss of local revenue will decimate town budgets. Although I appreciate Governor Malloy's continued commitment to maintaining state aid to municipalities, eliminating the car tax would simply shift the state's fiscal burden onto the backs of homeowners and businesses and force layoffs of key personnel.

State aid to municipalities has been flat funded for more than a decade despite steep increases in various municipal costs, including costs associated with education, municipal wage and benefits, public safety and infrastructure maintenance and repair. Towns have worked hard to control local spending and maintain property tax levels. Eliminating the car tax will wreak havoc with local budgets and benefit very few in the community.

I join the Connecticut Council of Small Towns (COST) in urging lawmakers to **oppose the provisions in SB-843 which will eliminate the property tax on motor vehicles.**

In addition, there has been a lot of discussion about adopting a statewide mill rate and requiring towns to remit any revenues generated in excess of the statewide mill rate to the state to be distributed back to towns. Towns have very few options available to raise revenue. Local property tax dollars should stay with the town and not be remitted to the state for redistribution.