



**Laura Francis
First Selectman, Town of Durham
Submitted to the
Finance, Revenue & Bonding Committee
March 4, 2013**

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

I would like to submit testimony against the provisions in SB-843 which would eliminate the car tax for cars with an assessed value of \$20,000 or less.

If passed, The Town of Durham would lose between 1.8 and 2.1 million dollars in revenue. This amount is approximately 30% of my municipal budget. While I agree that the tax on motor vehicles is a regressive tax that should be phased out at some time in the future, the impact on our taxpayers at this time would be far more deleterious.

Taking the car values off our grand list would shift a burden to the real estate tax. The real estate portion of our grand list took a big hit in the last revaluation leaving us little choice but to raise the mil rate. The elimination of the car tax will directly result in a reduction of town services or an increase in property tax.

Thank you for your consideration.

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