

March 4, 2013

Joint Committee on Finance, Revenue and Bonding

Re; AN ACT CONCERNING REVENUE ITEMS TO IMPLEMENT THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET. S.B. No. 843

To Whom It May Concern:

At a time when most of the information we are getting here in Connecticut regarding the fiscal stability of our state is far less than favorable, I feel it would be irresponsible to eliminate a revenue source such as the motor vehicle tax.

I want to be clear in that I do not support tax increases in any form and welcome ways to ease our tax burden, however if this proposal is to eliminate the motor vehicle tax, then what would be the option(s) to recover the lost revenue? Because the motor vehicle tax directly benefits the towns where the vehicles are registered, this would place the burden on the local municipalities to find ways to make up the shortfall. This would most assuredly come in the form of increased property taxes and/or fees on the local level.

I have heard speculation that there is a proposal to reinstate tolls on our highways which may, in some way, provide the lost revenue. This to me is tantamount to "smoke and mirrors." It would also unfairly place the tax burden on the motoring public who travel our roadways for their livelihood. I am not opposed however, in finding ways to levy some type of road use surcharge or the like, to folks from out of state on our highways. This would be most important and perhaps not so difficult to do for those who travel our roadways from out of state regularly.

In closing I'd like to ask the question; is this proposal in some way an effort to make one party or individual appear in a certain (positive) light? Rather than plating politics, let us all work together in an earnest effort to balance the budget by reducing spending rather than increasing or playing the "cup game" with taxes which always seems to be the case.

I would like to thank you for this opportunity to share my position on this sensitive issue.

Respectfully,

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