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Planning and Development Committee
Connecticut General Assembly
300 Capital Ave
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Planning and Development Committee and Connecticut State Legislators,

Support of H.B. No. 5102

My Name is Rico Dence, in 2012 I ran for State Representative in District 4 Hartford. Hartford Connecticut has one of the highest vehicle tax in the USA. Growing up in California and graduating from College in Massachusetts, I was quite shocked to learn about the car tax in Connecticut.

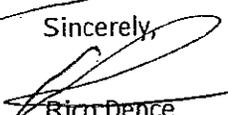
1. Most towns in CT has an affordable vehicle tax:
 - a. A car worth \$10,000, you would pay \$78-\$130 annual taxes.
2. In most of the Major Cities, the car tax is extensive burden.
 - a. Hartford's vehicle mil rate .71.
 - i. Example: A \$10,000 vehicle, you would pay \$710 a year tax.
 - ii. In 3 years, you would pay \$2130.00 in taxes to own a 10,000 in Hartford
 - b. This does not include, insurance, repairs, and gas.
3. Majority of the 50 states charge a uniform rate for each make/model/year of the vehicle
4. Why is this important?
 - a. **One:** it is not right that one live in the same state but is charged a different rate to drive their vehicles across the roads of CT
 - b. **Second:** The car tax is unfair burden to Low income people
 - i. In August 2012, unemployment in Hartford was 17.8%
 - ii. Poverty Level in Hartford is 38%
 - iii. 600 dollars saving on a 710 dollar annual tax would help them to buy food, pay for ½ month's rent or afford and register a car.
 - c. **Third:** Why not ride the bus?
 - i. From 7am-6pm the bus is great.
 1. After 6pm, there are fewer bus route crew and it runs every hour.
 2. Populations wise the bus system is great. It cannot afford to run with a greater frequency after 6pm

- d. **Fourth:** Fewer people on government aid
 - i. Owning a car: Low income people can find better opportunities for employment
 - ii. Employment mean fewer people on government aid
- e. **Fifth:** People register their cars outside of the city and state to avoid the taxes.
 - i. Registered in the state/city makes it easier for law enforcement
 - ii. Cities/municipalities receives taxes from the people who live in the town
- 5. Business with vehicles would register their cars in the State
 - a. Example
 - i. Rental car companies
 - ii. Construction
- 6. Started a petition to uniform the vehicle tax.
 - a. At the republican caucus in June, I tried to get some signature. People from Danbury did not want to sign it because they were afraid of raising their taxes
 - b. I have included signatures of my petition
 - c. I started a petition on eliminating the Car tax: I had no problem attaining signatures (signatures included)
- 7. How can we get revenue for schools/ municipalities
 - a. A 1 cent increase in sales tax that goes to school
 - b. Similar to New Britten, Charge \$100 annual tax for each unit in the multiunit. This is less than 10 dollar a month increase in rent.
 - i. By eliminating the car tax people can afford 10 dollar a month increase in rent

I encourage Connecticut Legislators to either unformed the vehicle tax for the same make/model/year, even eliminate the car tax, or support Governor Malloy in eliminating the car tax for cars under \$ 28,000. Car tax is an unfair burden to low income. By not having a vehicle, it makes it harder to find higher paying jobs.

In Connecticut, we need to attract businesses and people. In the last 20 years, Connecticut is one of the few states that experience seen a decrease in populations (35 years and under). When comparing CT to other states, the current vehicle tax repels businesses and people. A .01 cent increase in sales tax is not the same kind of deterrent.

Sincerely,


Rico Dence