

Kess, Quinn

From: N. Wayne Gowdy <enway@minister.com>
Sent: Friday, February 22, 2013 8:18 PM
To: Kess, Quinn
Subject: Testimony on Bill #6050

Sir:

I used to hate the numerous toll stops on I-95 and the Merritt. It only took traveling outside the state and experiencing their respective tolls to help me to realize that our tolls were a virtual pittance compared to our neighbor states. I didn't always appreciate the waits at our toll booths, and was happy to see them disappear. With the advent of the EZ-Pass and its adoption by our neighbors, traveling their toll roads became a virtual breeze compared to the old systems where toll-takers accepted each and every quarter (or whatever denomination coin/cash).

I fail to see why adopting this technology and deriving a relatively reasonable, small amount of income to hopefully: a) assist the operating budgets of our state highway department and roads maintenance; b) otherwise enhance the state's coffers IF it was coupled with even a small relaxation of the impending burden on this state's taxpayers; and c) was restricted to our border highways only.

Scofflaws who resort to local highways (i.e., U.S. Rtes. 1, 6 and 7) to escape the tolls could enhance local community revenues by purchasing our expensive gasoline, stopping at restaurants, whether fast-food or waiter-served, and/or stopping at hotels/motels, retail outlets and entertainment venues.

Finally, Connecticut commuters who do not wish to be subject to the tolls may finally begin to use our mass transit systems, thereby reducing pollution, roadway deterioration, and accidental deaths and injuries. In my estimation, this is a no-brainer.

Thank You for Your attention and consideration in this important matter.

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"Let us become the change we seek in this world."

- Mohandas Gandhi