

To: Transportation Committee, for hearing February 20, 2013
From: Peter Hanson, 81 Marvin Ridge Road, New Canaan CT 06840
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I support Proposed Bill Number 468, ***AN ACT ALLOWING MOTOR VEHICLE AND BOAT REGISTRATIONS TO BE VALID FOR THE LIFE OF THE VEHICLE OR BOAT.*** There are five reasons I support this bill.

1. There is **no functional need** to renew an automobile registration. A car must be registered when you buy it in order to get a license plate, and it must be transferred via the Department of Motor Vehicles when you sell it or trade it in. The car is not tested or even looked at when you renew the registration. A passport is good for ten years.

2. The registration renewal process is a **highly inefficient** way to collect money. DMV sends me two letters, each of which requires the purchase of paper and envelopes and the printing of both, and the postage. DMV must open my letter, key in its information, and deposit my check. Much if not all of the money collected is spent on paper, printing, postage and labor.

3. Automobiles are **taxed by the town** in which they are registered. For the State to tax them in addition to the town builds resentment. The registration renewal tax is regressive — it bears unduly on poor people. North Carolina charges \$28 to register a car, vs. Connecticut's \$80, and North Carolina inspects the car.

4. The Department of Motor Vehicles should **focus its resources** on important functions: testing drivers for licensing, providing photo IDs, enforcing emission controls, enforcing insurance requirements, publicizing organ donors, making vehicle tax information available to municipalities. DMV resources are strained — there is almost always a long line at the DMV office, and I always take a book — the last time I went to DMV, to renew my license, it took 50 minutes. Car dealers charge a premium to register your vehicle, and people pay it to spare themselves a visit to DMV. The time that people must spend in line at DMV is a form of tax, and it bears regressively on poor people, some of whom must miss work, and some of whom must hire a baby sitter.

5. Renewing a car registration is a **hassle**. "MUST OPEN IMMEDIATELY" says the envelope bearing the renewal notice. You have to do it by a certain time, even if you're traveling. You must pay by check — it's one of the few things you cannot do online. You have to put the "renewed" registration into your car. I resent that my government hassles me. Maine has an online renewal process.

Let's make our State government more user friendly, more progressive, and more efficient. Let's eliminate some government waste. Let's make auto and boat registrations valid for the life of the vehicle.