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Transportation Committee
Room 2300, Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

Opposition to the following bills:

- **HB. No. 5125: An Act Establishing Tolls On Connecticut's Highways**
- **HB. No. 6050: An Act Concerning Tolls At Connecticut's Borders**
- **HB. No. 6051: An Act Establishing Tolls At Connecticut's Borders And Reducing The Gasoline Tax**
- **SB. No. 699: An Act Decreasing The Gasoline Tax And Establishing Electronic Tolls On Connecticut's Highways Using A Congestion Pricing System**

Distinguished Members of the Committee on Transportation,

My name is Frank C. DeFelice, and I am a Planning & Zoning Commissioner and Inland Wetland & Watercourses Commissioner in the Town of Durham, Connecticut; and I have served as Chairman of Durham's Public Safety Commission for eleven (11) years. I wanted to communicate my thoughts on the aforementioned bills to you.

With regard to *HB-5125* and similar bills (*HB-6050/HB-6051/SB-699*) I would **oppose** the concept of placing tolls on Connecticut's highways. Such tolls would unquestionably result in large shifts in traffic patterns; from the highways equipped with toll stations, to the state's already overloaded secondary roads. Our state's secondary roads were never designed or constructed to handle the current volumes of traffic; let alone the contribution from our state's limited access highway system, should tolls be installed. Municipalities located along these highways would incur increased traffic enforcement costs, due to this additional traffic on their secondary and collector roads. Our Municipalities are already saddled with budget difficulties.

As you know, placing tolls on our highways would result in the trading of one funding source for another; and although it has been reported that the federal government was considering a more flexible arrangement for the placement of tolls; this is uncertain and unlikely.

I respectfully urge you to **oppose** the installation of tolls on Connecticut's Highways.

Respectfully,

Frank C. DeFelice