



State of Connecticut

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Sen. Maynard, Rep. Guerrero, Sen. Stillman, Rep. Mikutel and members of the Transportation Committee,

I am Sen. Art Linares, and I am testifying in support of SJ 23: ***RESOLUTION PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO THE STATE CONSTITUTION LIMITING THE USE OF MONEYS CONTAINED IN THE SPECIAL TRANSPORTATION FUND.***

For more than a decade, the state legislature has used gas tax revenue to help plug gaps in the state's budget.

When I tell that to Connecticut taxpayers in my district, they look at me in disbelief. They think all the money from the high taxes they pay at the pump goes to the Special Transportation Fund and gets directed toward fixing our roads and bridges.

Last year, I was proud to help lead a statewide effort to prevent a spike in the gas tax. Our "Axe The Gas Tax" petition collected more than 17,000 signatures from Connecticut taxpayers.

While that effort to stop the tax hike proved was unsuccessful, it sent a clear message: Connecticut residents don't want higher gas taxes and they don't want to see the Special Transportation Fund raided year after year.

With SJ 23, Connecticut voters would get to decide whether to approve a constitutional amendment forbidding the legislature from raiding the state's Special Transportation Fund.

The intent is to preserve the fund for transportation and to finance debt on transportation projects.

Establishing a constitutional "lockbox" would prevent future raids on this fund, and it would give Connecticut motorists what they have been denied: A voice to speak out on where their taxes are going.

I commend the chairs of the committee for conducting a public hearing on this common sense idea.