



State of Connecticut

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE CAPITOL**

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*Testimony by Representative Mitch Bolinsky
Before the Transportation Committee
Supporting House Bill 6362
February 25, 2015*

My thanks to the Honorable Co-Chairs, Senator Maynard and Representative Guerrero; Ranking Members Senator Boucher and Representative O'Dea; as well as the entire Transportation Committee for your consideration today of HB 6362, AN ACT CONCERNING A DEDUCTION FROM THE PERSONAL INCOME TAX FOR TOLLS PAID IN CONNECTICUT.

Allow me to begin by stating that I am not in favor of Connecticut restoring over-the-road tolling. I believe the limited revenue derived from tolling will be inconsequential to our state's need to execute Governor Malloy's transformative transportation plan, especially in light of the capitol cost of tolling infrastructure and technology, as well as the possible negative impacts to our federal highway reimbursements.

That said, if tolls are pursued as a déjà vu state revenue source, it is widely believed that execution is being conceptualized in terms of border-tolls, aimed at capturing revenue that capitalizes on Connecticut's geographic position as the gateway to New England. In this pass-through scenario, tolling at the borders has the unintended consequence of having a disproportionately large monetary effect on residents that reside at, or near the borders of our great state.

The intent of this legislation is to provide a Connecticut tolls tax credit or tax deduction for full-year residents filing a Connecticut state personal income tax return, with appropriate documentation, by amending the general statutes, should Connecticut restore over-the-road tolling. If tolling becomes a non-starter, then so should this bill.

Thank you for your time and should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "M Bolinsky".

Representative Mitch Bolinsky