

Dear Sirs,

I did not attend the March 9th public hearing on Governor's recent tax proposals. And, for that reason, I would like to share my thoughts.

I am strongly against raising tax rates. These are the easiest "fixes" to budget problems but they increasingly make Connecticut a non-competitive state.

The greatest thing we can do is to get Connecticut to grow and you hinder growth when you make businesses not want to locate in Connecticut. We need to become business friendly and tax rate increases are the antithesis of this.

For individuals, one third of tax income comes from Fairfield County. More tax increases will, increasingly, cause people to consider Westchester County.

If we want a long term "solve" to Connecticut's budget issues, we need to address our expense structure and unfunded liabilities. The latter puts Connecticut in the bottom 5 of the 50 states. This will continue to impact our future financial viability. Why will businesses or individuals want to locate here when they see the size of these unfunded liabilities which will curtail other state required spending?

Sincerely, Nancy Cooper

Nancy E. Cooper
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