

March 17, 2015

**RE: SB-1 An Act Concerning Tax Fairness and Economic Development
II. Uniform Statewide Mill Rate for Motor Vehicles**

Dear Members of the Planning and Development Committee,

As the Assessor of Norfolk and Colebrook, I am writing in opposition to the above proposal as drafted. While I do agree that the present motor vehicle taxing structure may appear flawed due to differing mill rates in each municipality, the concept of establishing yet another state agency to administer this already complicated program would seem inefficient and expensive.

As any Assessor will tell you, the lists of registered motor vehicles received from the DMV twice a year are incomplete and flawed, at best. Our offices spend countless hours correcting mailing addresses, completing and forwarding handwritten DMV form notices of these changes to DMV (mostly ignored), deleting and adding vehicles sent to incorrect tax towns, valuing unpriced vehicles, etc. This will be an impossible task to complete on a state level without local knowledge. Until or unless the DMV can better train and supervise those responsible for the registration of motor vehicles, both privately and through automobile dealers, these issues will continue to waste time and money better spent elsewhere.

Each time a vehicle is sold or disposed of, documentation submitted by the taxpayer needs to be verified and corrections made by both the Assessor's and Tax Collector's offices in order to adjust tax billings. Unpaid bills are reported to DMV for the purposes of denying new registrations or renewals by delinquent taxpayers. All of these issues are handled on a local basis, missing information immediately supplied, taxes paid and registrations facilitated. Imagine having to go through an understaffed, inexperienced state bureaucracy to accomplish the same.

While a statewide mill rate may be the answer, it should not be promoted under a bill noted for "Tax Fairness". It is simply another increased tax for Connecticut residents to benefit the state.

Perhaps to increase revenue, someone should finally reconsider the special treatment provided to those Connecticut residents who can afford to own antique, rare or special interest motor vehicles that are currently assessed at \$500. At a mill rate of 20, an annual tax bill of \$10 is presented collected. Whether registered or non-registered and privately garaged as collector's items, or expensive racecars used on private property, the collection of taxes based on the actual value of all of these vehicles would certainly enhance all of our budgets. Exemptions for motor vehicles preserved for historic purposes should be reserved for those in museums or for public enjoyment.

I would hope that you would further research the implications of this proposal before taking it further.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Michele Sloane
860-542-5287 norfolkassessor@yahoo.com
860-379-3359 ext. 206 msloane@colebrooktownhall.org