

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Andrew Gray and I live at 20 Wisteria Lane in Suffield, CT. I would like to voice my opposition to HB 6818, An Act Concerning the Establishment of Electronic Tolls at the State's Borders.

As a resident of a border town it would impact my family to a much greater extent than those who live far from the border. The impact would not only be a financial one, but the traffic through our town could increase tremendously, especially during rush hour. This increase in traffic would likely be from commuters avoiding the tolls and taking alternate routes through our small towns. GPS applications even have options for avoiding tolls, so we would also see the increased volume from these travelers. It's busy enough through our towns, especially when school is in session and busses are running. And if truckers seek to avoid tolls and the associated delays they will be using our roadways as well.

I have heard suggestions for tax credits to help compensate those of us that would be impacted by tolls the most, but tax credits require tracking toll usage and many don't even understand how to receive the credit. And that is small compensation for what is being proposed with this act.

We already have the highest gas tax in the region, please do not give people yet another reason to avoid Connecticut. Adding tolls at border crossings may sound like it impacts out of state travelers, but in reality the largest impact will be to Connecticut residents who live near the border. It will diminish our quality of life, add congestion to our local roads, and add yet another expense to border towns and their residents.

Respectfully
Andrew Gray