

I am writing in opposition to HB #6818 and would like my feedback entered as part of the public comment. I am opposed for many reasons, first being that my husband and I lived in Stratford on East Main Street during that horrific accident where several people died as a result of the tollbooth accident. I remember vividly that day.

From a personal, financial perspective this would be an additional hardship for my family. My husband has been working in New York and crossing the Tappan Zee Bridge every day, for the last 14 years. Not only do we have a monthly bill for gas that runs us between \$400-600 but also EZ pass for the bridge, (approx. 40-60 every month). A toll would be an additional burden for us.

Although it would be nice to work closer to home, the job market being what it is, has not been that easy for my husband -- who is nearing retirement -- to find a new opportunity.

Issues involved with transportation, congested roads, railways, parking, and public transportation are not new and have been around for some time as they have not been adequately addressed over the years. Adding new tolls will only exacerbate these issues.

I do agree that something needs to be done about our bridges and roadways and the state needs to prioritize its commitments. Fairfield County roads should be placed high on that list.

I would also like to disclose that I ran for State Representative in 2002 and 2014. Both times, transportation was a key campaign issue; I have publicly stated my opposition to tolls.

Should this bill come to fruition, I would suggest that any costs incurred would be forgiven as a tax credit when state taxes are filed to ease the burden of additional costs for those just trying to get to and from work. This is already the case for those riding the trains.

Thank You for your time.

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