

Transportation Committee
Gray

William

Marlbor

ough, CT

Dear Co-Chairs Senator Maynard, Representative Guerrero; Vice Chairmen Senator Leone, Representative Arce; Ranking Members Senator Boucher, Representative O'Dea, and esteemed members of the Transportation Committee:

Regarding H.B. No. 6818 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ELECTRONIC TOLLS AT THE STATE'S BORDERS. (TRA), I would appreciate any consideration you can give to my comments, which follow:

I hear that some in state government want to build toll booths here in CT. This was proposed several years ago and I thought it had died, but recently read that it's still being considered. There are many good reasons to object to this tolls proposal:

1) The 1983 Stratford toll booth crash that killed 6 people. This is why the I95 tolls were removed back then.

2) Environment. It takes brakes to stop the vehicle (heat into environment) and extra fuel to accelerate back to highway speed (fuel consumption; carbon footprint). While idling in line, vehicle emissions are much higher than if allowed to stay at cruise conditions.

3) My Money. I don't want to waste money on fuel usage and brake wear to stop and start unnecessarily.

4) My Time. Our Time. Everyone's time is worth something whether in \$/hour salary or time with loved ones. To stop for tolls robs us of this time.

5) State Investment - Physical. It will take huge sums of money to build the toll booths. Highways would have to be reconfigured, electronics and generators installed, extra lanes added near the toll booths, etc. Has anyone calculated the payback period? I'll guess it's negative for at least 20 years.

6) State Investment - Labor. The tolls would likely require a Department of Tolls organization to be built. Several six-figure jobs and many 5-figure jobs. Forever.

7) Toll Takers' Health. Breathing diesel fumes 8 hours per day is not good. The state will pay for any ensuing health problems.

Please throw all weight possible against this unwise proposal to reinstitute tolls in our state.

Thank you and please let me know if there are any questions or if I need to clarify anything.

Sincerely,
Bill Gray
Marlborough, CT