

*Representative Guerrero, Senator Boucher, Representative O'Dea and the entire membership of the Transportation Committee, I am Michael Furey of Enfield, Connecticut, and I submit testimony opposed to HB. HB 6818: An Act Concerning the Establishment of Electronic Tolls at the State's Tolls.*

*The proposal to add tolls to Connecticut highways as a means by which to raise revenue places an unnecessary an unacceptable responsibility on residents who live in border towns like Enfield.*

*As a life-long Enfield resident, our geographical location means that much of my daily life includes western Massachusetts. I earned a Bachelor of Arts and Master of Science from Westfield State College and a Master of Arts from Western New England College. My family and I attend weekly church services in Springfield and then visit with my parents who also live in Springfield. Each household in my family even maintains yearly memberships at Forest Park in Springfield.*

*Representative David Alexander shared with me a proper term for interstate commerce such as this: a zone of commerce. Residents of Enfield appropriately operate within a zone of commerce that appropriately includes western Massachusetts.*

*While I am fortunate to have a career that would allow me to absorb the extra costs of the tolls, as a single father with custody of his two children and a responsible homeowner, my little discretionary income should be applied to pursuits I see most fit, not a struggling State budget. I understand the conflict between maintaining our infrastructure and ensuring sufficient revenue.*

*However, the financing of these improvements should originate from the current gasoline tax and other income-generating legislation, not from a citizenry that already bears the brunt of a heavy tax burden. On behalf*

*of the many, many resident living in the many, many border towns in Connecticut, I urge you to consider a less intrusive method of generating revenue for these improvements.*

*Thank you for considering the impact the proposed tolls would have on Connecticut's border residents.*

*Most respectfully,*

*Michael Furey  
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