

I think tolls should be implemented again. The primary reason they were discontinued back in 1986 is because it was an election year and Governor William O'Neill wanted to get reelected. Governor O'Neill was not a bad guy he just wanted to win reelection and getting rid of the tolls was a great way for him to do it.

Unfortunately when the state was broke again in 1991 Governor Lowell Weicker passed the Income Tax because of the shortage of money lost when the tolls were removed.

I know this is not politically popular for the politicians to bring back the tolls. And most politicians will oppose it to keep their job. However the state roads and bridges are falling to pieces. Do we need another bridge to collapse like the Mianus River bridge did in 1983 in Greenwich? Fixing the roads and bridges will require money. The tolls can bring in money for that purpose as long as the toll money is only used to fix the roads and bridges and not anything else.

Tolls are an opportunity to collect money from people just passing through the state who are not Connecticut residents. Why shouldn't we charge these outsiders? And the revenue from trucks alone should be fairly large. They are using the roads and wearing them down so toll them. That is what other states do.

And the old argument that tolls are not safe because a truck plowed into a toll stop years ago killing other motorists is not a valid one. Politicians use that as an excuse to cover themselves to avoid supporting tolls. The truck accident was because of human error by the truck driver not the toll booths.

Are other states afraid to use tolls? No they are not. Many other states have tolls. Nothing new about that. In New Jersey you can't even exit the NJ Turnpike without paying a toll.

So the politicians better stop whining about installing tolls and think of fixing the roads and bridges instead of trying to keep their job that they were elected to. Pass the toll bill and get the roads and bridges fixed.

Sincerely,

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