

777 North Stone Street  
West Suffield CT 06093  
February 24, 2015

Transportation Committee  
Legislative Office Building, Room 2300  
Hartford, CT 06106

Subject: House Bill 6818

Dear Senator Maynard and Representative Gurrera,

I am writing to oppose tolls on Connecticut's roads.

Connecticut has some major problems that will affect the long-term viability of the state to maintain fiscal solvency. The citizens of Connecticut don't have infinite money to feed the government spending machine. Confiscating more money won't make the state more attractive to keeping productive people in the state.

Currently, our public education system is a gift to other states. Youth move out right after they finish their public paid education. In 2013, 25-34 year old people made up 14.4% of the total U.S. population. In Connecticut, it's 12.2%. That means there are 15% fewer people in that age range to start families or replace retiring workers (1).

Transportation funds have been exhausted on glamorous expensive new projects like the Pearl Harbor Bridge and the New Britain to Hartford busway while the conditions of the roads have become the worst in the nation (2). Of course we never see a ribbon cutting photo opportunity for a few shovels of cold patch repairing a pot hole that damaged the suspension of our vehicles.

Connecticut's rate of new jobs is last in the country (3), and our debt per person is exceeded only by Alaska and Hawaii (4).

To solve these problems, we can't have the towns in the center of the state working against the towns near the borders. The border toll proposal is obviously from representatives and senators in the center of the state. It would be a dream come true to be able to collect money from people who can't vote against them. Connecticut is facing serious financial problems that could eventually bankrupt the state.

The only way to solve Connecticut's long-term financial problem is to encourage growth with reduced regulations and reduced taxation to attract productive people and companies, not by increasing taxes and fees.

Sincerely,

Paul Dowgewicz

(1) <http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml>

(2) <http://www.infrastructurereportcard.org/a/#p/state-facts/connecticut>

(3) <http://www.gallup.com/poll/181520/first-conn-last-state-job-creation-2014.aspx>

(4) <http://www.statebudgetsolutions.org/publications/detail/state-budget-solutions-fourth-annual-state-debt-report>