

Dear Folks:

The legislative greed and stupidity evidenced by proposed House Bill 6818 to restore tolls is without equal.

I have lived and worked in Fairfield County since 1964. During this time traffic on the Merritt Parkway and I-95, which previously had tolls, has increased dramatically. What used to take 15 minutes (my house to the court in Stamford) has grown to a 50 drive on a good day. Often it is 1:15. Return, end of the day, traffic begins with slow downs at 2:00pm. Sometimes it takes two hours on the return trip.

I no longer accept cases in Stamford.

Imagine making every car slow down to pay a toll. Even if CT participated in the E-Z-tolls, the slow down would make delays an unacceptable increase in travel time. And do the people who live near the old [and new] toll stations want the increase in exhaust fumes? And do you think toll collectors want to be engulfed in exhaust fumes?

Has anyone checked federal highway laws for financial impact of placing tolls on the roads again?

And, why would the legislature, predominately non-Fairfield County members, want to punish Fairfield and New Haven counties with traffic flow interruptions? I laugh at the media portrayals of morning and evening traffic in Hartford County. 6-10 lane highways? How about installing a barrier to even its flow?

Please find a line in the budget to make up for any net income tolls might yield. Tell the governor his silly minimal state sales tax reduction is another folly.

Does the legislature have any common sense?

Sincerely,

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