



State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

REPRESENTATIVE FRED CAMILLO
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MEMBER
BANKING COMMITTEE
EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

TESTIMONY

In opposition of:

HB 6818, AAC THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ELECTRONIC TOLLS AT THE STATE'S BORDERS

Transportation Committee

February 25, 2015

Dear Senator Maynard, Representative Guerrero, Senator Boucher, Representative O'Dea and distinguished members of the Transportation Committee:

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to address HB 6818, AAC THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ELECTRONIC TOLLS AT THE STATE'S BORDERS.

As a resident of a border town, and a person who actually lived less than a half mile from where these proposed tolls would be resurrected, I know first how bad they were, and would be, for border town. The congestion it would cause due to cars exiting into Byram to avoid the tolls would be intolerable. Moreover, and more importantly, the Byram Fire Department is located on the main thoroughfare in Byram and just 500 feet from the highway. The already congested streets would be made impossible to drive on and with fire engines needing clear roads for public safety situations, this would in effect block them into at the station, and thus limit their capability to fight fires and respond to emergencies.

I would also like to refer you to the 2009 Connecticut Transportation Strategy Board's million dollar report that concluded that diversion in Greenwich would equal 14,000/day off 95, 5,200/day off the Merritt Parkway. While I don't know how they arrived at those numbers, I do know for sure that the number would be high and lead to a situation that is both dangerous and intolerable.

I respectfully ask that this committee take these facts into consideration when voting on whether or not to re-install tolls on our borders.

Sincerely,

Fred Camillo
State Representative