



State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

REPRESENTATIVE MIKE BOCCHINO
ONE HUNDRED FIFTIETH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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MEMBER
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HIGHER EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT
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TESTIMONY

In Opposition of:

HB 6818, AAC, The Establishment of Electronic Toll's at the State's Borders

Transportation Committee
February 25, 2015

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

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss House bill 6818 with you today. I am Rep. Mike Bocchino from the 150th district representing the shoreline portion of the Town of Greenwich. This area of Greenwich encompasses all of Interstate I-95 where it initially enters into the State of CT. My constituents and I are strongly opposed to having tolls return to CT especially in the form of Electronic Border Tolls. This proposal will increase pollution and traffic to those residents that live near the proposed toll locations. These tolls will be a burden to all Fairfield County residents who commute to neighboring NY for work. The Tolls will adversely affect local businesses that rely on customers from our neighboring State as well as to our residents who wish to partake in interstate commerce.

The most disturbing aspect of this proposal is the burden that border towns will experience on their local streets. With today's technology, GPS and smart phones, it is clear that our local roads will be overwhelmed with travelers bypassing the tolls. In many cases the infrastructure of these local roads are not equipped to handle such large numbers of motorists and commercial trucks. We also have to accept the possibility that these motorists will not be driving cautiously on our local roads. These vehicles will be looking to get back on to the highways as quickly as possible creating unsafe speeds that put all pedestrians at risk. In the district I represent we have

multiple elementary schools that are in close proximity to I-95 and along route 1. These schools are all in walking communities and the children who attend these elementary schools will have their safety, the primary concern of all parents, put at risk.

During these harsh economic times how can we as legislators feel that it is appropriate and just to burden our border residents with this tax. It will be one more reason for residents to leave the State of CT. We struggle to look for ways to raise revenue. I recommend that we reevaluate how we utilize and operate our weigh stations. There is a weigh station in Greenwich on I-95 also one along I-84 and other parts of the State that are rarely open. Why not utilize the weigh stations more to increase revenue since it is overweight trucks which cause the most damage to our highways.

In short, although at first glance, tolls appear to be a magical, pain-free source of revenue, once you do the analysis, they are really a wasteful and destructive method of taxation. Please listen to the people of the state of CT and reject HB 6818.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Bocchino". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mike Bocchino
State Representative
150th House District