



State of Connecticut
SENATE

SENATOR MICHAEL A. McLACHLAN
TWENTY-FOURTH SENATE DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
300 CAPITOL AVENUE, SUITE 3400
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591
DEPUTY MINORITY LEADER

RANKING MEMBER
GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION & ELECTIONS COMMITTEE
GENERAL BONDING SUB COMMITTEE

MEMBER
FINANCE, REVENUE, & BONDING COMMITTEE
JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

February 25, 2015

Dear Senator Maynard, Representative Guerrero, and Distinguished Members of the Transportation Committee,

I am State Senator Michael McLachlan, and I am testifying today against House Bill 6818, *An Act Concerning The Establishment Of Electronic Tolls At The State's Borders*.

Three of the four towns in my district are long the Connecticut-New York border. It has been shown that Danbury will be one of the most effected cities by the installation of tolls. Installing tolls would not reduce congestion; in fact it would have the opposite effect on local roads. Drivers will travel local roads in order to avoid tolls. An estimated 13,800 vehicles a day will revert to this practice just at the border change on Interstate 84 in Danbury.

Such diversion to smaller, local roads causes immense wear. Projects to restore the damage will inevitably be required and will put a strain on our already strained local budgets.

There is also projected environmental damage due to congestion. Indirect adverse impact on wetlands, watercourses, and stream flow are likely to be caused from the diversion of traffic to our local roads.

Furthermore, placing tolls at our border poses potential constitutional problems for the state. This placement could be a violation of the Commerce Clause of the United State Constitution, which could prompt difficult and costly legal battles.

Finally, when the tolls were removed in 1983, the federal government paid for any highway repair that was caused by the removal. It has never been confirmed to me that installing tolls again would not require the state to repay the federal government for any funds that were used for that damage. That is a dangerous proposition in our current financial situation.

I have enclosed a map with the projected locations of tolls throughout my Senate District. It shows the real impact that highways and local roads would face when every road between Connecticut and New York needs to have a toll installed.

I urge the committee to vote down this bill, especially since the amount of revenue that tolls would even bring into the state is still an unknown.

Thank you.

Sincerely Yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael A. McLachlan".

Michael A. McLachlan
State Senator - 24th District

I-84 Tolls Impact On Local Roads

Sherman

Anderson Road
Briggs Hill Road
Chapel Hill Road
Hardscrabble Road
Route 55
Taber Road
Wakeman Road

New Fairfield

Ball Pond Road
Fairfield Drive
Gillotti Road
Haviland Hollow Road
Milltown Road
Route 37

Danbury

Aunt Hack Road
Joe's Hill Road
Kenosia Avenue
King Street
Middle River Road
Mill Plain Road
Miry Brook Road
Old Mill Plain Road
Old Ridgebury Road
Saw Mill Road
Tanglewood Drive
West King Street

Ridgefield

Chestnut Hill Road
Mopus Bridge Road
George Washington Highway
Ridgebury Road

