

Attention: Transportation Committee

No tolls in Connecticut. In his first term, Governor Malloy and the Legislature passed the largest tax increase in Connecticut's history, including taxes on the wholesale and retail distribution of oil/gasoline. The residents of this State pay some of the highest fuel taxes in the nation. In addition, we have a high income and sales tax and continue paying property taxes on our automobiles, an illegal tax in my view. What do you do with all of our money? Our forefather's started a revolt over less. Hartford needs to stop behaving like a Monarchy.

Tolls will place an unnecessary financial burden on residents near the State's borders and clog neighboring roads from drivers looking to avoid the tax. Moreover, and I'm certain this obvious point has been made many times, they will create massive traffic delays such as those in New York, New Jersey, Delaware and Maryland. Why make the I-95 corridor an even greater nightmare to travel? Also, while I didn't live in Connecticut at the time, I am told traffic was the reason tolls were eliminated in the past.

I lived in Texas for twelve years. The roads and bridges were in better condition, obviously had to cover a much greater land mass, and the State does not have an income tax nor a property tax on automobiles. And...**no tolls.** Since our State could fit within the borders of Texas one must ask – what do you do with all of our money?

HB 6818 is an absurd, ill-timed and poorly conceived proposal.

Sincerely,

Stephen H. Bitteker
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