

Dear Honorable Members of the Transportation Committee:

I understand that our State's transportation infrastructure is in need of repair however, attempting to pass the installation of tolls as necessary to fund these repairs is simply disingenuous.

The fact is that placing tolls on our boarders and along our coastal roads will punish local residents with additional transportation costs while negatively impacting local commerce. In Danbury, which is the State's largest generator of sales tax revenue for the State, this negative commercial impact will not only hurt retailers bottom line but will also hurt State tax coffers.

It will be the average commuter, worker, shopper and business owner that will be negatively impacted by tolls which are in effect a tax on roads that will not achieve the claimed result as the loss of federal transportation funds will not be offset by toll revenue.

Instead the General Assembly should protect funds dedicated for transportation upgrades in the future while looking to regional solutions involving our highways and mass transit rather than massive projects which assist a relatively small number of commuters at a large cost to tax payers.

I know you have many difficult decisions ahead this session and I truly hope that you will find a way to avoid imposing tolls on our boarders, or for that matter anywhere in CT.

I thank you for your time and attention to this important matter

Truly,
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Democratic Caucus Leader
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