

Transportation Committee, Et. All :

Thank you for taking the time to consider my opinion on this upcoming legislation. To help you understand my thoughts on this bill {House Bill 6818} let me tell you a few things about my background. I am almost a life-long resident of New Fairfield, Ct. During World War II I was at my grandmother's home in Virginia until my Father returned from honorable service in the Pacific Theater as Intelligence Officer for the P.T. Fleet, United States Navy. I am a retired Teamster with extensive experience in both long haul transportation and in the Heavy & Highway Division of Teamster Local 445, Newburgh, N.Y. As a long haul driver I well remember the traffic jams and the horrible wreck on Interstate 95's toll booth. Not pleasant memories to be sure.

Frankly if Hartford wished to improve the highway infrastructure in Connecticut, in my opinion, the first legislative move would be to return to the dedicated highway fund once supported by our extremely excessive fuel tax both on Interstate truck use and our close to, if not, the highest gas tax in the nation. Doing so would eliminate the need to congest two main Interstates with ill conceived tolls. One more important consideration to ponder, heavily, is the extreme burden of the public in lost time caused by being mired heavy traffic. The cost to the economy for that lost and inefficient use of time for personnel engaged in commerce in our state and the inconvenience for the plain citizens represented by your committee members that these tolls would create. Besides the inconvenience and cost to commerce the simple fact that our road system could be covered as it was once before; by re-creating the Dedicated Highway Fund. That would eliminate improper use of already collected taxes created to build and maintain our roads.

Interstate 95 is a zoo most hours of the day; adding toll booths would slow it from a crawl to a walk. Ask people who use that road by necessity what they think. For my self, i avoid it whenever possible not for just safety concerns but to better utilize my time . Sadly that means I do not do business in that quadrant of the state any way near what I would like. I am not alone in that thought. Hence, lost commerce along the I 95 corridor.

As for Interstate 84:

I live near and use that road much more than I 95. The Danbury area residents are jammed up with the intersections of I 84 and route 7 as it joins East bound. It is my recollection that the exits from the state line to roughly the route 6 exit, at one time, had the distinction of facilitating the most fatalities on the whole Interstate system. That section of roadways has had more face lifts than some Hollywood narcissists. Sadly fixing little and not to the comfort to travelers using it. The growth in population since the late 1950's when that stretch of roadways was built does compound the issue. Tolls will only intensify traffic jams even if you follow other states with EZ Pass high speed lanes. High speed EZ pass is a better way to collect tolls but finding alternate funding for your deficits is still a better way to go.

In closing, please for safety concerns alone; please vote no on House Bill 6818. Please vote no in consideration of your constituents whose lives will be extremely inconvenienced daly if you don't pitch House Bill 6818 in the trash bin where it belongs.

Respectfully summited :

Wm. Ward Moss, III
446 State Route 37
New Fairfield, Ct 06812

(203) 746- 2811