

Dear Transportation Committee Members,

While the need to secure reliable funding for needed highway infrastructure repair is undeniable, the proposal for border tolls is completely unfair. For many people who live near the Connecticut-New York border, the border toll proposal represents a significant new expense. I typically cross this border on Interstate 84 five times per week. As I approach retirement with reduced income, this will represent a prohibitive new expense.

The impact on Connecticut businesses that partially depend on New York shoppers will also be negative.

The unfairness of this proposal comes from the disproportionate share of highway maintenance costs that will be borne by Connecticut residents who are unfortunate enough to live near a State border. The residents of interior portions of Connecticut will enjoy the benefits of better highways at little to no cost. This is blatantly unfair.

The following analogy may sharpen the point. If we put tolls only around all roads leading into and out of Hartford (with no deductibility as a travel expense) we could raise the money to fund our highways. I would bet that this would be hugely popular, but it too would be grossly unfair.

I urge you to reconsider this idea and seek alternative ways of maintaining our highways.

Sincerely,
William Kingston
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