



State of Connecticut
SENATE

SENATOR TONY HWANG
TWENTY-EIGHTH SENATE DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
300 CAPITOL AVENUE, SUITE 3400
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591
CAPITOL: (800) 842-1421
E-MAIL: Tony.Hwang@cga.ct.gov
WEBSITE: www.SenatorHwang.com

ASSISTANT MINORITY LEADER

RANKING MEMBER
HOUSING COMMITTEE
LABOR & PUBLIC EMPLOYEES COMMITTEE

MEMBER
COMMERCE COMMITTEE
VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Senator Maynard, Representative Guerrero, Senator Boucher, Representative O'Dea, and distinguished members of the Transportation Committee,

I am State Senator Tony Hwang, and I am testifying today regarding House Joint Resolution No. 1, **Resolution Proposing A State Constitutional Amendment To Protect The Resources Of The Special Transportation Fund.**

I have been a strong supporter of the concept of a constitutional amendment as well as a statutory change to protect the Special Transportation Fund, ensuring dollars from that fund are spent only for transportation purposes.

It's imperative that any proposal protect, in absolute terms, the Special Transportation Fund, and that every dollar is invested in our transportation infrastructure.

In other words, the box must remain locked, with no exceptions.

The lock box should contain no built-in "trap doors".

The question is whether the language in this resolution is strong enough to prevent future legislatures from raiding the funds.

It's extremely important that any language passed must protect money in the fund as well as the revenue streams going in to the fund.

Does this resolution define the revenue sources whose revenue is to be locked up?

Does this resolution give the legislature the flexibility to divert certain transportation-generated revenue to other than transportation expenses?

Every taxpayer dollar is precious. An ineffective lockbox will not serve taxpayers well and enable the legislature to continue to raid these funds for other purposes.

I thank you for raising this proposal and look forward to working with you to make it even stronger.