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Transportation Committee, Connecticut General Assembly

Re: **House Bill 5055**, "An Act Decreasing Wait Times At The Department Of Motor Vehicles"

This testimony is being submitted in opposition of House Bill 5055, An Act Decreasing Wait Times At The Department Of Motor Vehicles.

As President of the Connecticut Tax Collectors' Association, Inc., and as tax collector for the City of Danbury, I respectfully request that Sections 5, 7, and 8 of House Bill 5055 be removed. These Sections would repeal the procedure by which persons delinquent on motor vehicle taxes are unable to register their vehicles until those taxes are paid. This is also the main collection tool municipalities have in collecting delinquent motor vehicle taxes. By abolishing this rule, municipalities would be forced to file small-claims litigation, warrants on vehicle owner's real estate, and other drastic collection methods, which will be more time consuming and expensive.

In addition, the revenue loss to the towns would be dramatic. Our association gathered information from 112 towns and the revenue loss exceeds \$30 million. The time it would take to try and collect these lost funds would severely impact the budgets of every town in the state. There is a second factor that must be considered. Many people pay their taxes as they know they will not be able to register their vehicles if they do not. If this bill were to pass, there will be additional taxpayers who will not pay, as there will be no immediate recourse.

Finally, the burden for this revenue loss will fall on the tax abiding citizens who have always paid their taxes on time and follow the statutes as all taxpayers should. You will see a rise in real estate taxes and business personal property taxes, as this will be the only way to ensure municipal budgets can be funded in a timely manner.

Thank you for time and consideration of this matter, and I again encourage you to reject Sections 5, 7, and 8 of House Bill 5055.