

**Town of Barkhamsted
Incorporated 1779**

**Testimony of Donald S. Stein
First Selectman, Town of Barkhamsted
Before the Transportation Committee
of the Connecticut General Assembly
February 29, 2016**

**RE: HB-5055 - AN ACT DECREASING WAIT TIMES AT THE DEPARTMENT
OF MOTOR VEHICLES**

My name is Donald Stein and I'm the First Selectman of the Town of Barkhamsted. I'm submitting testimony in **opposition to provisions in HB-5055** which will eliminate a critical tool in collecting delinquent motor vehicle taxes.

Eliminating the prohibition on processing motor vehicle registrations unless individuals and businesses are current on their property taxes is expected to result in a 5% loss of revenue for towns. This percentage will most certainly increase as time goes on.

For the Town of Barkhamsted, this will result in a drop in revenues of \$47,349.69. This is a lot of money for a small town such as Barkhamsted.

The town budget includes 3 revenue lines for taxes as I am sure most other towns do as well. This change would have a negative impact on not just the current tax levy, but also the back year's tax and the interest that is budgeted to be collected. Given that local budgets are already stretched thin, this proposal will shift more of the property tax burden onto homeowners or result in cuts to critical services.

I urge you to reject the provisions in HB-5055 which repeal this critical collection and enforcement tool.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.