TOWN OF STONINGTON

SELECTMAN'S OFFICE
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FIRST SELECTMAN
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Senator Andrew Maynard, Co-Chair of the Transportation Committee
Representative Antonio Guerrera, Co-Chair of the Transportation Committee

Ranking Members Toni Boucher and Tom O'Dea

Governor's Bill 5055 An Act Decreasing Wait Times at the Department of Motor Vehicles

Thank you for holding this important public hearing on an issue that would hurt towns like Stonington. While I think it is admirable to want to decrease waiting times at the DMV, there are other ways to go about it that do not include decreasing revenues to small towns like ours.

First, I think educating the public on the capabilities of DMV's new website would be a great start. I believe the DMV estimated that more than 50% of the people waiting in line could have accomplished what they came for on its new website.

Second, allow contractors such as AAA to perform more functions. Currently I believe one can only renew licenses at AAA, but surely there must be other functions they can perform. They are efficient and professional.

But, to take away any leverage municipalities have in collecting motor vehicle taxes would remove all incentive people have to pay their MV taxes. You can't imagine the numbers of people who only come in to pay their MV taxes every two years so that they can register a vehicle. While most of us pay our bills in a timely fashion, there are those who only pay when they are forced to, in this case, when it's time to register a vehicle. To take that away, a town like Stonington could potentially lose about $170K in revenue per year.

With all the State cuts we have suffered to date, there is very little anticipation of any reimbursement from the State to reduce this burden. Municipalities are working diligently and creatively to cover costs of all the programs that have fallen from the State and landed at the steps of the local towns.

Thank you for your consideration of our views. Please do not carry this burdensome bill forward.

Sincerely,

Robert "Rob" Simmons, First Selectman
Town of Stonington
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