Mainiero, Phil

From: Mark Lyon <mark.lyon@washingtonct.org>
Sent: Monday, February 29, 2016 3:20 PM
To: zRepresentative Arthur ONeill; Sen. Kane, Rob; tratestimony
Cc: Michael Muszynki; Kathryn Dube; Donna Alex
Subject: HB-5055

Honorable members of the Transportation Committee,

I am submitting written testimony electronically urging you to vote against HB-5055 as presented.

Sections 7 & 8 of HB 5055 repealing Conn. General Statutes Section 14-33 & 14-33a will remove from the municipal tax collector the only tool provided them to insure collection of Motor Vehicle Personal Property Tax. This portion of Washington's property tax revenue (approx. $600,000 annually) is often ignored by our citizens until vehicle registrations are due at which time they are willing to pay promptly, penalty included. The only recourse left if this provision is repealed will be to turn these past due assessments over to a collection agency, thereby adding the agency's fee to the delinquent bill and potentially ruining a resident's otherwise good credit rating.

The problem of Dept. of Motor Vehicle wait times must not resolved by simply eliminating the duties of the DMV. The checks and balances of requiring tax and violation fines to be paid in return for the privilege of driving a legally registered vehicle on Connecticut highways has been proven over many years. The elimination of the Tax Collectors ability to provide a paper document for presentation to DMV showing tax payment allowing for motor vehicle registration has proved to be more of a burden for DMV than municipal tax collectors.

The shortcomings of the Dept. of Motor Vehicles program conversion are well documented, botched tax town reporting, failure to confirm insurance coverage, lack of timely vehicle registration notices, etc. The inability to rectify these shortcomings do not warrant the dismantling of a working system but shows the need for resources to address the problems this conversion has presented.

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