



State of Connecticut  
SENATE

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JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

February 29, 2016

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

I am State Senator Michael McLachlan, 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 support the idea of having a constitutional amendment to ensure that the funds of the Special Transportation Fund be used solely for transportation purposes.

**This proposed resolution, however, does not accomplish this worthy goal.**

In order to achieve a true transportation 'lockbox', there must be specific language requiring state courts to enforce the provision.

**This resolution does not contain that language.**

In order to achieve a true transportation 'lockbox', there must be specific language that specifies the sources of revenue that are to be included, and that the funds may only be used for mass transportation, state roadway, or bridge infrastructure projects.

**This resolution does not contain that language.**

Without these provisions, the 'lockbox' will be as inefficient as our spending cap, which we do not enforce even though it was passed with over 80% of support from our citizens. Year after year, we propose language that will implement the cap, and year after year there is no action taken.

If adopted as is, this proposed resolution will create another constitutional amendment in our state that is not enforceable.

If adopted as is, this proposed resolution will still provide the legislature the ability to divert funds to other projects.

Our state needs an enforceable transportation 'lockbox' which will ensure the state provides motorists the peace of mind that the roads and bridges they are traveling on are safe, and they will be able to reach their destination safely.

We owe it to our constituents to provide them with as much safety as possible while they travel our roads.

This resolution needs to be strengthened.

Thank you.

Sincerely Yours,

Michael A. McLachlan  
State Senator - 24<sup>th</sup> District