



**SENATOR JOHN A. KISSEL**  
**CHIEF DEPUTY SENATE REPUBLICAN**  
**MAJORITY LEADER**

16 FREW TERRACE  
ENFIELD, CONNECTICUT 06082  
Hartford: (860) 240-0531  
Home: (860) 745-0668  
Toll Free: 1-800-842-1421  
Fax: (860) 240-8306  
E-Mail: John.A.Kissel@cga.ct.gov  
Website: www.SenatorKissel.com

**State of Connecticut**  
**SENATE**  
STATE CAPITOL  
300 CAPITOL AVENUE  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

**CO-CHAIR**  
JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

**VICE-CHAIR**  
COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN  
GENERAL LAW COMMITTEE

**MEMBER**  
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE  
LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

## Testimony

### In Opposition of:

**S.B. 560 – An Act Instituting Electronic Tolls on Connecticut’s Highways**  
**S.B. 751 – An Act Establishing Electronic Tolls on Connecticut’s Highways Using a Congestion Pricing System**  
**H.B. 5458 – An Act Establishing Electronic Tolls on Connecticut’s Highways**  
**H.B. 6045 – An Act Instituting Congestion Variable Pricing Lanes on interstate Highways**  
**H.B. 6058 – An Act Concerning Electronic Tolls**

**February 27, 2017**

Chairman Boucher, Chairman Leone, Chairman Guerrero, Ranking Member Carney, and distinguished members of the Transportation Committee.

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to speak today on Senate Bill 560, Senate Bill 751, House Bill 5458, House Bill 6045 and House Bill 6058. As the State Senator for several border towns in North-Central Connecticut, I cannot stress how strongly I am opposed to the proposal of tolls. This is my 13th term serving the people of the 7th Senatorial District and year-after-year I have been a strong voice of opposition to the reinstatement of tolls not only in my district, but throughout the State of Connecticut.

There are many reasons that I am opposed to tolls and they can be broken down into three main points:

1. Potential traffic diversions to alternatives routes will affect local roadways and businesses.
2. Tolls unfairly discriminate against the people of North-Central Connecticut and other border areas of the state.
3. There is a significant capital cost associated with deploying all-electronic tolling.

There are many ways that tolls would negatively impact the communities that I represent. Traveling motorists looking to avoid the added fee may be inclined to use secondary roadways to avoid toll charges. Putting tolls in border towns like Enfield would crowd local streets with cars leaving the interstate to avoid tolls. Thousands of vehicles each day would divert to this practice and Route 5 would see major gridlock. Not only will gridlock create congestion problems, the increased use of local roads will cause immense wear and tear; resulting in projects needed to restore the damage that will inevitably be done, putting yet another strain on our already overburdened local governments.

In North-Central Connecticut residents frequently travel across the border to Massachusetts. For example, many of my constituents work for Mass Mutual and travel across the border multiple times every week – some multiple times a day. They would be unfairly impacted by the institution of these tolls.

According to the Department of Transportation's: A Conceptual Look at Tolling Highways in Connecticut study; the one-time capital cost to fully deploy all-electronic tolling statewide would be between \$450 and \$600 million depending on how many routes were included, and only approximately 25-30 percent of revenue from statewide tolling of all interstates and expressways would come from out-of-state motorists.

The bottom line is that tolls would add another tax onto many of our residents who simply are trying to get to work to make ends meet and provide for their families.

I have also heard from many business owners from North-Central Connecticut. Many have expressed concern that travelers will be less likely to visit and invest in their communities because of the cost of tolls. Connecticut border towns would lose a great deal of revenue. Additionally, some business owners have even expressed concern about the increased congestion on local roads used to get to their businesses in a timely fashion.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter which will have a huge impact on my constituents of the 7th Senatorial District, which includes the towns of East Granby, Enfield, Somers, Suffield, Windsor Locks and portions of Granby and Windsor.

Sincerely,

John A. Kissel  
State Senator-7th District