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From: agiannis@aol.com
Sent: Sunday, February 26, 2017 11:10 PM
To: tratestimony
Subject: SAY NO TO TOLLS

Here we go again. After failed policies in the state of CTafter the departure of CT residents and businesses out of our state.... and after the liberal, left leaning democrats in CT wasted millions of taxpayer dollars , we now turn to the remaining families in CT and ask them to pay even more taxes ?

Instead of working on growing the tax base in CT and enticing companies to return to our state, we threaten them with more taxes. Why is it that the democrats believe that every problem will be solved with throwing more money at it and higher taxes ? Despite all the revenue in the past I -95 has been abysmal with more potholes than war torn Middle East !!! Last week , I blew out a tire on a pothole on I-95 which cost me over \$400 to repair. Instead of spending more money on entitlement programs, meaningless studies, and poorly budgeted "shovel ready " projects, the state of CT should prioritize competitive contracting and project bidding along with an internal audit to identify waste and mismanagement.

The answer to every problem in CT is not to burden the middle class with more taxes disguised as tolls to pay for infrastructure. We all know that those funds will never be applied to road maintenance and construction but rather to everything else. Your low income families/welfare recipients are receiving entitlements already and , will Probable receive some type of stipend to offset these tolls anyway, they won't be affected. This tax will likely inflame the more wealthy residents in CT and businesses -who were already looking for a reason to move to a state without estate taxes, etc. and will likely justify their departure. Finally we get to that rare animal know as the middle class. A socioeconomic group of people who are somewhat stuck , literally , in the middle between a group who has enough resources to do anything they want and a group who receives enough resources that they are not motivated to contribute further. The middle class will pay the toll tax as they have no choice but to travel long distances to where they find employment. They have children in colleges in the two-state area who commute to home regularly. The coat of every food that comes into the state of CT will likely be increased and disproportionately paid by the middle class. In summary, I would like to think that my appointed politicians in the state capital have at least two functioning neurons in their head and a synaptic connection that works. Let's focus on how we can rebuild CT and grow are tax base by increasing jobs, enticing industries and people to return to CT, and reduce the redundancy, wasteful spending , and poor management of state funds. Let stop this cycle of out of control spending, taxation, and waste.

Sent from my iPhone