

## Mainiero, Phil

---

**From:** Cynout <cynout@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 24, 2017 9:00 AM  
**To:** tratestimony  
**Subject:** NO to tolls

To the members of the Transportation Committee:

As a resident of Bethel, maybe just eight miles from the border to NY State, I would be especially and unfairly hit with the proposed tolls on I-84.

After a decade of work-at-home, my employer has embraced co-location, forcing a commute once again. The cost of that, alone, amounts to a \$30 a week pay cut. I have no choice, and adding a toll impacts me, while not impacting other CT residents who live and work mid-state.

Section 1 of the CT Constitution states "All men when they form a social compact, are equal in rights; and no man or set of men are entitled to exclusive public emoluments or privileges from the community."

So explain how a toll which disproportionately takes money from border towns and no other CT residents meets the constitutional requirement where mid-staters have an exclusive privilege to not be subject to those tolls.

We already pay a mileage tax through gasoline taxes, the proceeds should be 100% allocated to highway maintenance.

Perhaps it's better to look at reducing spending, like the costs of the bus to nowhere (boondoggle expenses for low ridership), or doing away with defined benefit pensions (the real sinkhole of CT)

As for Tolls:

- Connecticut drivers will be disproportionately impacted
- Drivers trying to avoid tolls will increase congestion and wear-and-tear on local roads
- Implementing tolls could jeopardize federal funding
- Tolls don't guarantee a reduction or elimination of the gas tax
- Toll funds are not guaranteed to be spent on transportation
- The cost of food and other merchandise delivered on toll roads will increase
- Danbury Fair Mall and other border community merchants could lose business
- Installation of new, electronic tolls will be incredibly expensive and take years to complete

NO TO TOLLS

Bill Hillman  
Bethel, CT