

Mainiero, Phil

From: J B Matthew <matthewct3@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 12:20 PM
To: zRepresentative Devin Carney; tratestimony
Subject: Oppose CT tolls and mileage fees.

Funding Federal, State and Local road maintainence is a political hot potatoe and a finanacial mess 20-30 years in the making. The trend of states implementing tolls on interstate roads and then raising the fees with impunity are not long term solutions. It already costs more in tolls to drive to DC than the gas that my car consumes? This is like taxing gas at over 100%. Alternate public transport? Train tickets costs \$130to \$260 one way! Cheapest round trip for two is over \$500.

Now CT (a state with one of the highest gas taxes) wants to cash in on the trend to cover years of fiscal mismanagement. CT should actually be lobbying against or suing MA, NY, NJ, MD and VA for collecting tolls on our Federal Highways and advocating for a fiscally responsible and sustainable solution.

One model would be for the Federal government to tax gasoline refineries at a set rate to maintain the interstate highway system. Then states would only fund their state and local road repair thru pump gas taxes-- which should have a nationwide specified maximum and indeed these funds should not be treated as general revenue. Construction company owners getting rich on highway contract awards needs to end by carefull management of the bidding and award process. No more bonuses for finishing on time! States would then make hard decisions on what to maintain as a priority, what to defer and what to abandon.

Jim Matthew