

Dear Finance Committee Testimony,

Eric & Finance Committee –

The CT Association of Realtors (CTR) just voted to support the CT Commission on Fiscal Stability and Economic Growth's final report issued this month (attached). I am impressed with the makeup of the Committee and that they self-funded the effort, and were able to reach a consensus within the time allotted. While there is pain and issues that pretty much everyone is not going to like, I feel it is well researched and recommendations well-reasoned. Unfortunately, there is no magic wand to get the State out of the problems we're in. The CTR is made up of about 17,000 Realtors© and are becoming more & more vocal in their dissatisfaction with our current situation.

The following is the text from CTR.

I am a REALTOR on the front line of individuals, families and businesses moving in and out of Connecticut. Our industry has a unique perspective on why those decisions to move are made.

The Report of the Commission on Fiscal Stability and Economic Growth gives a roadmap for the state to take immediately to help address the crisis. The recommendations work together to solve the problem and should not be cherry-picked to only over-tax citizens and businesses without incentivizing opportunities for economic growth.

Delays in addressing the problems will only increase the debt and fiscal crisis in our state. Please Support the Report to start solving the problem now.

So, I know there is opposition to tolls and I understand that - I'd rather not have them too - in my line of work, I travel on I-84 and other state roads a lot. Tolls, if adopted will impact me disproportionately; but we're all going to have to make sacrifices.

I think we need to improve areas where CT is not competitive and recover some of those funds by increasing costs where we can. For example, if this report is correct, we have some room to increase corporate income taxes and we have the endorsement from one of the state's more important employers to support it.

Again, this plan isn't perfect but I am unaware of any other plan that is this comprehensive and balanced. The idea is to accept the plan as a package and not pick aspects that are more politically favorable and ignoring the more painful ones. I believe that having & following a plan is more prudent than continuing the destructive course that we're on.

Please register my support for adopting the findings and provisions of the Final Report of the Connecticut Commission on Fiscal Stability and Economic Growth.

Thank you for your time & consideration.

Sincerely,

Jeff Ryer
Southbury, CT 06488

