

## TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 7202 – HIGHWAY TOLLS

I strongly say “YES” to tolls on Connecticut highways. We are already paying tolls as this editorial cartoon from 2004 illustrates:



If we are to rebuild our state’s economy we must first rebuild our roads. The gasoline tax is not enough, especially as it was lowered in 1997 by 14 cents a gallon in a politically popular but economically short-sighted move by the legislature.

Tolls, with time of day pricing, will help mitigate our traffic by encouraging off-peak use of our highways, just as we offer peak and off-peak rail fares.

Tolls are NOT a tax. They are a user fee. If people don’t want to pay tolls, they don’t have to: they can take mass transit.

Tolling trucks is not enough as the vast majority of our traffic is single-occupancy cars driving an average distance (on I-95, an *interstate* highway) of only 11 miles. That is selfish and should not be free.

JIM CAMERON / Darien CT 06820

Cameron06820@gmail.com