



**Testimony
Barbara Henry
First Selectman
Town of Roxbury
Before the Finance, Revenue & Bonding Committee
April 29, 2019**

Connecticut's small towns and cities are facing another difficult budget year and any cuts in state aid or any loss of local revenue will impose a greater burden on our residents.

SB-1139 impose a greater property tax burden on homeowners and other real property owners by eliminating the car tax. The car tax is a significant portion of our tax base. By exempting motor vehicles from the property tax, SB-1139 will force increases in our mil rate, placing a greater property tax burden on homeowners, rental property owners and businesses.

Given recent reductions in municipal aid and increased costs associated with delivering critical services, this bill will impose an untenable burden on our community. The provisions in this bill run counter to the proposals outlined by the Connecticut Tax Study Panel, which concluded that expanding or adding new property tax exemptions was the wrong way to go. This simply shifts more of the burden onto other homeowners and businesses that are not exempt from the tax, making it more expensive to own homes and operate businesses.

I urge you to *oppose SB-1139* and other proposals under consideration which would add to the property tax burden in this state.