



**Testimony**  
**Leo Paul**  
**First Selectman, Town of Litchfield**  
**Finance, Revenue & Bonding Committee**  
**April 29, 2019**

**SB-1139 – AN ACT ELIMINATING PROPERTY TAX ON CERTAIN MOTOR VEHICLES AND ADJUSTING THE UNIFORM PROPERTY ASSESSMENT RATE**

Connecticut is more reliant on local property taxes to fund education and other critical services than any other state in the nation, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. In fact, property taxes account for more than 40% of the taxes paid by residents in this state.

Despite this, SB-1139 eliminates the property tax on motor vehicles, which will simply force towns to impose a greater property tax burden on homeowners and businesses. Eliminating the property tax on motor vehicles will cost the Town of Litchfield more than \$1.5 million dollars per year. Without this revenue, our town will be left with a massive hole in its budget – a hole that will have to be plugged by increasing the mil rate on homeowners and businesses or cutting critical services.

By adding to the property tax burden on homes and other real property, SB-1139 will negatively impact the real estate market in this state, which will have severe repercussions for our state and local economies. Eliminating the car tax and shifting more of the property tax burden onto homeowners and businesses does nothing to address the need for systemic property tax reform.

Rather than move forward with yet another state-mandated property tax exemption, the state should focus on assisting towns in diversifying revenue sources, addressing mandate relief, funding education and preserving other sources of state aid to municipalities to reduce overreliance on property taxes.

**I respectfully urge lawmakers to oppose SB-1139.**