



State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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REPRESENTATIVE SUSAN M. JOHNSON
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DEPUTY MAJORITY LEADER

MEMBER
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
EDUCATION COMMITTEE
HOUSING COMMITTEE

March 14, 2021

Dear Co-Chairmen Senator Fonfara, Representative Scanlon and distinguished members of the Finance Revenue and Bonding Committee:

Thank you so much for raising H.B. 6187 An Act Concerning The Restructuring of Certain Taxes and Tax Equity and S.B. 821 An Act Concerning the Reformation of Certain Taxes and Tax Equity.

I give my strong support for these bills because they will be instrumental in bringing Connecticut back from the hardships of the pandemic and they will support the beginning of a new era in our Connecticut economy.

These bills acknowledge the fact that some of the federal funds we receive will help address the same economic hardship issues that the federal pandemic relief bills also recognize. Connecticut must provide more economic support over the average amount that is allowed by other states.

That is because as you are all well aware, Connecticut is a more expensive state in which to live. Whether it is the high cost of energy or the population density which also makes the cost of our properties higher or the age of infrastructure and population density which make infrastructure renewal more expensive, or the failure of all of our communities and our state to share expenses like other states do, those realities just make it more expensive in Connecticut.

These hidden costs have been a disproportionate burden to our lower to upper middle-income families and small businesses. These bills seek to make the necessary adjustments so all levels of our middle-income families can have the support so often afforded our upper income families and businesses. Over the years we have taken subsidies away from the middle while the top income folks have been able to obtain federal tax cuts that allow them to shift their proportional tax burden on to the rest of our state. These bills will help balance the equities between all levels of income in Connecticut. By doing so we will have more revenue for existing and new businesses. If we are able to expand our Connecticut tax base, we will ultimately reduce our taxes.

Thank you for all you are doing to address the economic complexities in our small state which has always had very big opportunities. We can keep and expand opportunities if we are able to keep up with changing economic conditions.

Even the land of steady habits must recognize the need for thoughtful change.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan Johnson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Susan" and the last name "Johnson" clearly distinguishable.

Representative Susan Johnson
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