Northwest Connecticut
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Business Working Together

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March 10, 2023

Chairman Fonfara, Chairwoman Horn, Senator Martin, Representative Cheeseman, and distinguished members of the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee:

I am JoAnn Ryan, President and CEO of the Northwest Chamber of Commerce. We strongly support the ***House Bill 5290 An Act Sunsetting the Highway Use Tax.***

The Northwest Chamber of Commerce has seen first-hand how the recent implementation of the Highway Use Tax "HUT" has added an unnecessary financial burden to business within our community. This tax has exponentially increased operations cost resulting in higher prices for consumers.

The Highway Use Tax has already had such a negative impact on Connecticut business that this committee is debating legislation that would exempt certain agricultural vehicles from this burdensome tax. We currently have many members of the Northwest Chamber of Commerce that make a living providing residents, businesses and farms with some of the highest quality products in the nation. Supporting this bill will help restore our members' ability to create jobs and support their community.

The Northwest Chamber of Commerce supports initiatives that help improve our state's infrastructure. Having a strong network of roads, bridges, and highways only helps secure the transportation of vital goods and services, vital to those in our state. Taxes, such as the Highway Use Tax, are not an effective way to ensure we maintain and support that important network.

The state legislature should not rely so heavily on taxes to fund our projects. Our state has benefitted from an influx of federal funds that are going directly to state infrastructure priorities. Legislators should also look at prioritizing projects and at cost saving measures to ensure that the right projects are done with the least amount of funds expended.

Thank you so much for your time and I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

JoAnn Ryan
President & CEO
Chamber of Commerce of Northwest Connecticut, Inc.

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