

Testimony of
Kevin Maloney, 4016 Mountain Road, West Suffield, CT 06093
Before the
Spending Cap Commission

My name is Kevin Maloney. I reside in Suffield and I own and operate a small transportation company headquartered in Windsor Locks. I am submitting this testimony in the hope that the Commission will recommend exempting nothing from the spending cap with the single exception of debt service.

When the citizens of Connecticut approved a state income tax in 1992, it was with the codicil that the state would implement a spending cap in order to preclude runaway spending. Since that time, both legislatures and administrations alike have consistently made "end runs" around the cap, breaking the covenant their predecessors made with their constituents. In fact, in every one of the past twenty-two years our state's spending has exceeded the average growth of personal income by 1.66 %. While the median income for Connecticut residents grew 40% since 1972, the growth in state expenditures for the same period was 225%. This is NOT what our citizens envisioned when they signed off on an income tax.

The existing budget process, whereby committees decide how much money they want to spend and a separate committee is tasked with figuring out how to acquire that sum is an anathema to any prudent business person. A spending cap based on inflation and/or the growth of personal wealth would definitely establish first just how much money could collectively be spent and would go far toward correcting this backwards process. Additionally, arbitrarily removing obligations from the budget, such as was done with a Medicaid obligation a few years back, severely damages the credibility of those crafting it. We desperately need to send a strong message that we are committed to getting our fiscal house in order so that we are able to stem the flow of wealth and talent that seems to be pouring over our borders. Consequently, I support an enforceable spending cap covering all expenditures with the single exception of the one mentioned above.

Lastly, I have to say that I am more than a little insulted by recent comments made by legislative leaders who opined that individuals criticizing the budgetary policies driving the financial crisis we find ourselves in were, "Rooting for Connecticut to fail". Nothing could be further. But how telling is it that the engineers on this fiscal train wreck actually believe that some of their passengers are cheering for their own demise.