State of Connecticut

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Testimony Before The State Tax Panel
September 16, 2015

By Senator Toni Boucher

Chairman Dyson, Chairman Nickerson, and other distinguished members of the State Tax Panel, thank you for the opportunity to testify today. The steadily increasing tax burden continues to weigh heavily on the minds of Connecticut's private citizens and businesses. Recently, I have received a great deal of feedback about the need to address three issues in particular.

- Eliminating the unitary tax, whose reporting requirement would be detrimental to business in Connecticut.
- Reverse the cuts the R&D tax credit (now 50% down from 70%) that companies believe is crucial to fostering research and innovation.
- The need to reduce probate fees, which have dramatically increased for those going through our probate court system.

Besides these, there are a number of additional tax ideas which should be considered, and existing taxes which I believe the state would benefit from reducing or eliminating entirely. These include:

- Phase out inheritance tax
- Phase out gift tax
- Institute a program similar to that in New York, where any new business in inner city areas would have their local and state taxes waived for a period of ten years.
- Eliminate the luxury tax
- Eliminate $250 business entity tax
- Reduce fuel tax
- Expand job creation tax credits to include small businesses
- Eliminate the earned income tax program
- Eliminate Gross Earnings Tax on Propane
- Phase out the state portion of the real estate tax, keep the town portion intact
- Revisit the idea of a 2% property tax cap
- Reduce or phase out taxes on pensions
- Towns should consider the option to reduce motor vehicle tax

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on one of the most pressing issues affecting our state. I hope you will give these proposals serious consideration when drafting your recommendations.