

**To: Connecticut State Tax Committee members**

**Subject: Are taxes in CT too high?**

**9/14/15**

The question you have posed for this hearing is of great interest to me. I am a 68 year old female, working full time as a sales executive. Within the next 2-4 years, I hope to close my full time employment. Unfortunately, the end of full-time employment means I will have to leave Connecticut.

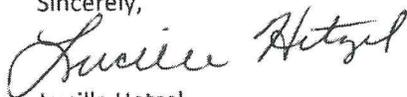
Why will I leave the state I was born in, and leave my family and friends behind? I will not be able to afford the high cost of living, including the high taxes and utilities in this state. You see, I will not have an abundant retirement/golden parachute. I am one of those middle class workers who will have some 401K money and social security to live on. The income tax, property taxes, sale tax...etc will severely cut into the dollars left for "living".

I will miss the beautiful sights, sounds and tastes of Connecticut. I'll miss my family, friends and favorite haunts. But you see, the "choice" has already been made FOR me. I cannot afford to live in Connecticut after full-time employment ends. Period.

The solutions: Rein in state spending. Cut taxes. Reduce the lifetime benefits package that is afforded to state and municipal workers (or, as in the private sector, ask employees to SHARE more of the costs with higher withholding). With an eroding tax base, this state and most municipalities are spending beyond their means. Connecticut is losing population. That places a higher burden on those of us left in the state when government continues to grow. And, I believe the high cost of living and taxes combine to be the death of any growth and abundance. The only "business" that is truly growing in this state is GOVERNMENT. Of course, that means higher taxes to pay for the larger payroll. Back to square one: The taxes in CT are too high.

Thank you for taking the time to review the thoughts of a working citizen, with one foot stepping out of the state.

Sincerely,



Lucille Hetzel  
Middletown, CT 06457