

Hello,

I would like to speak out about the taxes in this state. I feel that we are being taxed on nickle and dime items that don't bring enough revenue to this state. This state should offer tax incentives to small businesses for them to stay in this state instead of moving elsewhere - specifically North Carolina where it is cheaper. I can be a witness to one specific business that moved to Charlotte NC in 2013. It was my former employer MetLife in Bloomfield Ct. They were offered some sweet incentives from NC to move the business down there. Good for NC, bad for CT because 150 people from my department (New Business) alone were laid off. And did the Governor do anything to keep MetLife here in CT? Did he even know about this move? The answer is "No" because then the 150 of us that were laid off would still be working at Metlife. The open door for small businesses in this state has been closed with no re-entry. If there were more small businesses (especially in Bristol where I live) around; maybe there wouldn't be so many people "unemployed", like my husband. He has been out of work for 7 years. I have been literally struggling financially all these years. Our home needs repairs (desperate for a new roof) and our vehicles are 97's with mileage nearing 200K. Who is going to give my husband a job? Who says that there are jobs and hiring in this state until you are in the situation? Do you know how this state could get revenue? The answer is "tolls". I am sure that most of us have gotten into our cars and traveled out of Hartford with a destination to Maine. Once out of CT and you cross into Massachusetts; there are tolls, then the states of New Hampshire and Maine follow suit. The starts at the Mass Pike (I-90 to I-290 to I-495 to I-95) and as you get farther North on I-95 at the NH line toll plaza; you only pay \$2 a car. Do you know how many cars pass through that plaza a day? Do you know how much \$\$\$ the state of Ct could collect at the state line @ \$2 a car? \$2 a car!! I'll let you do the math. Also in Maine when you get off of an exit on I-95 you have to pay the toll at the end of the exit; so this is more \$\$ for the state of ME. The handwriting is on the wall. Three states with tolls - Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Maine, why not Connecticut?? What's wrong with this picture? A toll plaza would be only 1 \$\$ solution that this state has. Instead of the Governor nickle and diming us senseless; tolls would be help. Instead of spending \$\$ on the busway; it should have gone toward the construction of tolls, but unfortunately that is water over the damm. This state has to have tolls; there is no other way. Our state representatives have to take this issue seriously and take action so that the state will benefit from this. The Governor has got to stop taxing us to death. Pretty soon there won't be anyone left (only the rich folks, that work at ESPN) in this state to tap for \$\$ because they have moved away because it is too damm expensive to live in Ct. I don't know how everyone else feels but I can tell you that me and my husband (Stephen) are very disappointed with this states government. Let's uphold Henri Martin's quote "**When the Connecticut taxpayers speak out, positive results happen!**"

Thank you in advance for your time.

Best Regards,  
Deb Varum  
Bristol, Ct