



Testimony on House Bill 6965

Submitted by Isabel Blank, External Affairs Manager
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Good afternoon distinguished members of the Transportation Committee. My name is Isabel Blank. I am Manager, External Affairs at the Yankee Institute for Public Policy, and I am writing to testify on **House Bill 6965**, An Act Concerning the Retention of Information Collected Using Infrared Number Plate Scanning Technology. For questions or follow up, please contact me at isabel@yankeeinstitute.org.

This bill highlights one of many reasons that tolls are harmful; they violate privacy.

When automatic license plate readers scan license plates for tolling purposes, they track an individual's time, date, and location. This means that the government can track someone's speed and location. If they store that data, they can track someone's frequency of travel as well. This raises serious first and fourth amendment concerns.

In addition to privacy concerns, tolls will add another large burden to the already strapped people of Connecticut. Residents have recently been impacted by two of the state's largest tax increases, and tolls will continue to hurt especially the poorest of our citizens who travel furthest for work—those who we should be helping.

State estimates project that Connecticut residents would pay 60% of the collected revenues. That's on top of paying the sixth highest gas tax in the country and the number one highest administrative costs for transportation in the country—almost triple the national average. How can we demand more money from the hardworking people of Connecticut when the state has been such a poor steward of what we have already given?

Tolls are expensive to collect, regressive, and—as this bill emphasizes—an enormous privacy concern.