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Small Business Perspective on Connecticut Truck Tolls

CR-TEC Engineering is a small business in Madison CT. We produce automated valves primarily for water treatment plants. Most of these valves are very heavy and ship by truck to the water plants. The incoming parts that are used to make these valves also arrive here by truck. Freight is a large part of our product cost. Truck tolls would increase our inbound and outbound freight costs. We checked with one of our trucking carriers today, and they plan on a general rate increase if Connecticut truck tolls are implemented. Our valve market is very competitive, and any price increases will reduce our sales, company growth and hiring of new employees.

With fuel taxes and registration fees, the average large truck already pays \$17,000 annually in Connecticut and federal road taxes. The trucking industry pays diesel fuel tax, petroleum gross receipts tax and vehicle registration fees. Tolls would be a fourth tax.

From a small business perspective, we see truck tolls having an overall negative effect. We ask that Connecticut legislators not implement truck tolls. Instead of a new tax, Connecticut needs to spend its current resources more wisely on transportation projects. The whole campaign of adding tolls speaks of new revenues, but there is little information made public about specifically what transportation projects require this new toll revenue. Further, if truck tolls are implemented, Connecticut will certainly face costly lawsuits, like the trucking industry lawsuit taking place in Rhode Island.

Please, do not add truck tolls that will negatively impact many small businesses.

Best Regards,

CR-TEC Engineering Inc.

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