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**To:** zRepresentative Melissa Ziobron

**Subject:** Public Hearing - my comments

I think it is critical that the lawmakers demonstrate the actual cost saving they have implemented before asking for more money from the citizens of this state. Demonstrated cost saving efforts that were actually implemented and provide actual data on the actual dollars saved - not projected dollars. I want the lawmakers to show the citizens of CT actual quarterly dollars recovered related to fraud and those punished for committing fraud in any of the state programs. It boils down to lawmakers and the state demonstrating they are running a tight ship before asking for more tax dollars.

Lawmakers also need to show the citizens of CT the **SUCCESS** of any social programs they have implemented using our tax dollars before asking for more dollars. Success being measured by actual change, cost benefit, training programs that actually put individuals back to work - what is the percentage. Does the state even have **SUCCESS BENCHMARKS** for their programs? If you cannot show success within a program it should be shut down immediately to save CT taxpayers money. Too often once a program is implemented it goes on and on because we have always done it that way. This is another reason lawmakers are seeking tax increases.

Furthermore, the scare tactic to collect more revenue by sending up the OMG we are cutting education and human services spending is getting old. Lawmakers need to make cuts to non-essential spending. For example do we really need TV ad with a message eat healthy before getting pregnant. Is that really the job of the state or how citizens envisioned tax dollars would be spent? That message is the job of our physicians not the government.

I also want legislators to explain how adding more taxes is promoting business / jobs in CT? How is more taxes promoting people to remain in CT? Also what sacrifices are the legislators taking to trim the budget down. Are you paying for your own health care, funding your own retirement plan, or taking salary cuts like many in the private sector have done.

The bottom line is we don't need more taxes, what we need is a down sized government that focuses on eliminating fraud, wasteful spending, and change the mindset within the state if you don't use the money in the budget you won't get it next year. If you didn't spend it you did not need it! This is primarily why budgets in this state continue to grow and promote waste. Unfortunately I also have the impression that our budgeting process is flawed since we went from looking good to the OMG right after the election. One excuse I think I heard was Bush tax credits ended - Really those compiling the budget did not keep this in mind when projecting for the following year. That makes me think the approach was "just do what we did last year"!

But let's not forget the promise of no new taxes! I honestly believe at the rate this state is spending and not focused on fiscal responsibility blight in our future. CT will end up

looking more like a Detroit & Baltimore due to waste, bad spending habits, and bad nanny policies. Still loving the early release program - big success there - how many shop owners killed by criminals playing the system?

Clean up your house before asking for more money. What is the break point on taxing the citizens of this state and country? Are you comfortable with citizens having to give up 50% of every dollar earned, or is it 75% of every dollar earned we have to give to government? Or is the goal of the state and the feds to consume 100% of the money we earn.

Anyway, I do figure that the public hearing is only for show since it is being held a time that the people impacted the most are working and cannot attend. If lawmakers really wanted to hear from the citizens of this state the hearing would be held at a central location in the early evening hours. But then again, possibly the goal is no one shows up.

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