

Frilling, Tara

From: Michael Gerner <michaelgerner1@att.net>
Sent: Thursday, May 07, 2015 8:23 PM
To: Sen. Fasano, Len
Cc: Frilling, Tara; Krautler Patricia; jagargiulo@gmail.com
Subject: Tax Hike - Public Hearing Testimony

Dear Senator Fasano and Representative Klarides:

Our representatives in the Connecticut state legislature have been fiscally irresponsible for decades. It is finally hitting us. People who live and work and pay taxes in Connecticut are tired of going through a fiscal crisis every few years because of their shortsightedness. It is time for all of us to face up to these realities and do the right thing.

Some suggestions:

Public employee pension benefits should be based on their base pay received during their last year of employment. With the exception of public employees in hazardous positions, the retirement age should be raised for public employees.

Public employees should pay a larger percentage of their retirement benefits and health care benefits.

Public employee retirement and health care benefits, along with interest paid on state borrowing, are two of the biggest drivers of our increasing rate of state spending.

These suggestions are simply saying that public employee benefits should be more in line with those privately employed. I don't think there is anything radical in my thinking.

These two issues are a good place to start with bringing our state on a sustainable fiscal path.

We can also stop making it difficult for entrepreneurs and other businesses to do business in this state. Small businesses employ the great majority of people in this state, and our state legislature is only making it more difficult for them to start up, expand, and employ more people.

In closing, this is not an ideological issue, it is a common sense issue. Connecticut is a great place to live, but there is no reason why we have to be at the tail end of the rest of the country regarding economic growth and job creation.

Sincerely,

Mike Gerner (a state resident since 1962).

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