



Dear Neighbor,

In my 15th year representing you in Hartford, I have never been more proud of the accomplishments we have made to ease the burden of property taxes for the hard working families of Hamden.

First, I succeeded in my effort to force Quinnipiac University to finally pay its fair share of property taxes for homes it has purchased in our neighborhoods for student housing. The legislature cannot control the behavior of Quinnipiac students, or its president, but with the support of my colleagues, we were able to modify our laws to force Quinnipiac to pay property taxes, instead of relying on Hamden's families and businesses to subsidize their intrusion into our neighborhoods.

Second, we have made the car tax more fair, and provided Hamden with increased state aid to further lower property taxes. We did this by dedicating a portion of the sales tax to local property tax relief, and asking those in the highest income tiers to pay a little more. The result for you is a 20% reduction in your car taxes beginning next July, and the ability of our town to lower property taxes on your home as well.

It continues to be my greatest privilege to be your voice in Hartford. As Speaker of the House, I've been able to bring more attention to the issues that concern you the most, and I am happy to report that those efforts are producing results.

Sincerely,

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

**BRENDAN SHARKEY**

PROUDLY SERVING HAMDEN

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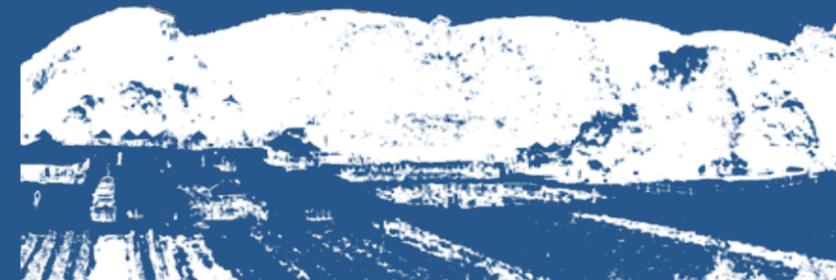


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STATE REPRESENTATIVE | SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

**BRENDAN SHARKEY**

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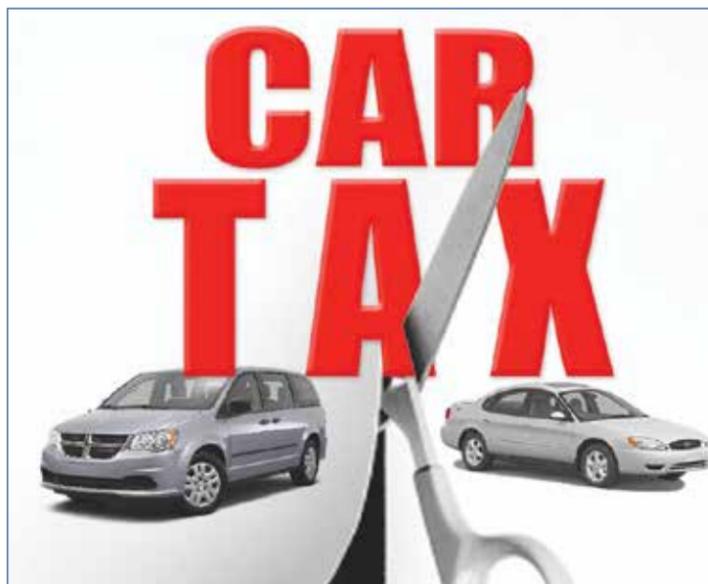
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## HAMDEN CAR TAXES GOING DOWN

### PLUS, MORE PROPERTY TAX RELIEF IN TOWN

The property tax is one of the most burdensome taxes for Connecticut's families. I am pleased to report that we have tackled this issue head on by ensuring that your car taxes will be capped next July and by dedicating a new revenue stream so that Hamden can lower its property taxes.

By sending a small portion of the state sales tax to municipalities, the budget caps local car tax mill rates at 32 beginning next year, and at 29.36 mills in 2017. This will provide every family and business who own a car or truck in Hamden with significant tax relief based on the town's 2015 mill rate of 39.93 mills.

POPULAR MODELS	2015 DODGE CARAVAN	2007 FORD TAURUS
CAR VALUE	\$20,806	\$5,529
CURRENT TAX	\$581.55	\$154.54
NEW TAX BY 2016	\$466.05	\$123.85
NEW TAX BY 2017	\$427.60	\$113.63
TOTAL 2 YEAR SAVINGS	\$269.45	\$71.60

In addition, Hamden will receive an increase in state aid next year, and an additional \$2.8 million in 2017, allowing town officials to provide further property tax relief for families and businesses.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

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PROUDLY SERVING HAMDEN



## NEW LAW REQUIRES QUINNIPIAC TO PAY TOWN TAXES

Quinnipiac University is an important part of our community, but over the years their continued purchase of off-campus residential homes to house their students in our neighborhoods has put a strain on municipal services, and compromised the quality of life for many families.

In reality, these colleges are essentially businesses, nearly indistinguishable from for-profit companies, except they don't pay property taxes, like the hard working families of Hamden do. Yet they use and rely upon town services such as police, fire and public works.

I felt it was unfair that a host town's families and businesses have to pick up the tab for colleges, such as Quinnipiac, that take residential properties off our tax rolls. Under a new law I authored, properties owned by tax-exempt private colleges that are used to house students will now stay on the tax rolls, and colleges will pay property taxes on them.

## IMPROVING OUR AGING TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM



According to the business community, our outdated transportation infrastructure is one of the biggest drags on our economy. That is why I made sure our state has a long-term plan to invest in modernizing our transportation network.

Starting next year, .5% of the state sales tax will go toward replacing and repairing neglected roads and bridges, and upgrading rail and other public transit systems. This includes helping to relieve congestion on our highways with the planned New Haven-Hartford-Springfield commuter rail line that will run through Hamden.

Connecticut can't continue to grow with a transportation system designed for the 20th century. Making this investment is critical to our economic future.

## BANNING PRODUCTS WITH MICROBEADS

Microbeads made of polyethylene are found in a wide range of common bath and cosmetic products, such as toothpaste and soap. Sadly, these small plastic spheres are increasingly finding their way into our ecosystem, causing environmental problems for our state's waterways, fish, and crustaceans.

To combat this growing issue of plastic particle pollution, we have banned the use of microbeads by prohibiting the import and sale of products containing them. The ban will be phased in beginning in 2018, allowing industries to study the potential use of alternative, biodegradable products.



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