

Valerie Carelse - Transport Laws and Related Matters, Amendment Bill (B30-2012)

From: "Thomas Vogler" <thomv@telkomsa.net>
To: <vcarelse@parliament.gov.za>
Date: 11/5/2012 04:22 PM
Subject: Transport Laws and Related Matters, Amendment Bill (B30-2012)

To: The Portfolio Committee on Transport

Attention: Ms Valerie Carelse

Dear Sir,

I wish to comment on the government's intention to toll the freeways around central Gauteng and object on the following grounds:

1. The method of collection is wasteful and an abuse of taxpayer's money when the toll could be much more easily collected in other ways. (See 2 below where I deal with 2 of them)
2. There are better and more financially efficient ways of collecting these tolls/ providing for the cost of the road infrastructure:
 - a. Via the well publicised and efficient fuel levy method. (Of course the levy will have to be increased). Given the economic activity in Gauteng which leads to the high road traffic in the first place it is also more equitable (the first principle of all methods of taxation)

that **all the citizens of South Africa** should contribute to this tax.
 - b. Via the e tag system you propose but which I submit needs serious modification and a different approach (see 3 below)
3. The method by which you have attempted to "ram the e tag approach down our throats" is cause for great concern:
 - a. E tags themselves should be made available to the public on a no charge basis so long as the person concerned provides their ID number and signs for the tag.
 - b. It would have garnered you a great deal of support (and still may) if each tag was loaded with an initial say R100 free tolls.
 - c. The replenishment of the e tag should be entirely the responsibility of its owner (in the same way one buys air time on the cellular network). ***This is my most strenuous objection to your proposed system and I will NEVER buy an e tag while you require open billing access to my bank account.*** Government has proved themselves totally in competent in that regard (as in the electricity billing crisis in Johannesburg). Of course if there are insufficient funds on the e tag then the owner of the car will be billed at the (significantly) higher rate due to the fact that he/she will have to be sent a statement.

Please acknowledge my submission.