

TO: Transportation Committee of the Connecticut Legislature

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF LCO #373: "An Act Concerning the Sustainability of Connecticut's Transportation Infrastructure"

January 29, 2020

Dear Chairmen Sen. Leone and Rep. Lemar, Vice-Chairs Sen. Bergstein and Rep. Simms, Ranking Members Sen. Martin and Rep. Devlin, and Distinguished Members of the Transportation Committee:

I am a resident of Branford Connecticut, and I am submitting testimony **in support of LCO #373: "An Act Concerning the Sustainability of Connecticut's Transportation Infrastructure"**

I urge you all **to vote YES for LCO #373**

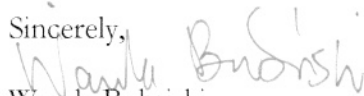
I share some of the **reasons why** I support tolls:

We all know that the state needs revenue to fix our decaying bridges and disintegrating roads. Every day we travel over bridges old enough to have witnessed the passage of the 19th Amendment (US Constitution). If you've ever taken a family trip by car to our Nation's Capital, you will surely recall all the tolls you paid along the way –New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland. Our neighbors to the north also have tolls. And think about it, when, because of an accident, you sit in traffic on either I-91 or I-95, you note all the out of state plates—yes, 40% of traffic on CT roads have out of state drivers at the wheel. So why not tap into this through traffic to create some revenue for our crumbling transportation infrastructure? Putting tolls on the Trucks is a good starting point.

- CT Taxpayers currently pay 100% of the all transportation infrastructure costs. That's unfair. Tolls on trucks only – most of which are out of state and/or traveling through the state—will **generate \$180 million income annually for Connecticut.**
- Known fact: **TRUCKS cause the most damage** to our roads.
- As mentioned above, trucks already pay tolls up and down the Eastern seaboard; it's about time Connecticut tap into this **revenue stream that will benefit maintenance of our State's infrastructure.**
- We need to be **thinking strategically** about the longer term, too. Our whole transportation infrastructure and systems **NEED TO BE FIT FOR THE 21ST CENTURY!** That means innovative, energy efficient –if not net-zero emissions—ways to move people and goods around the whole state, making Connecticut an attractive and efficient place to live, work and do business.

Again, I urge the committee to **VOTE YES for LCO #373**

Sincerely,



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