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January 31, 2020

Transportation Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 2300
Hartford, CT 06106

Members of the Transportation Committee:

I am writing to you today with significant concerns about the impact of the proposed "Truck Only" tolls on the members of the Connecticut Farm Bureau Association (CFBA). Members of CFBA are aware of the critical need for significant transportation infrastructure investment by the State of Connecticut and applauds the significant trading of policy ideas between the Administration and Legislative Leadership of both parties. However, the latest proposal that is being reported on would directly impact those that grow food and feed the State of Connecticut. This proposal would virtually impact nearly every member of the CT Farm Bureau Association including:

- Milk haulers and dairy farmers
- Grain haulers and farmers
- Nurseries
- Livestock haulers and farmers
- Greenhouse growers
- Forest products
- Grass turf haulers and farmers
- Produce haulers
- Poultry farmers and haulers
- Vegetables farmers
- Aquaculture farmers

This list comprises almost our entire membership. In fact, the dairy haulers have already agreed to route changes with the Department of Transportation to benefit the State's roads. Your Administration is tasked with working to transform our transportation infrastructure and invest in the future -we are excited to be a part of the solution. With that in mind, CFBA would like to work with the State of Connecticut to create an application process that would exempt certain agriculture related hauling and farming vehicles from this toll. It is expensive to operate a farm in our state. Adding additional fees to transporting the myriad of products farms produce, and the inputs that are needed to produce those products, places unfair burden on the industry that feeds our fellow citizens.



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The Connecticut Farm Bureau Association leadership is excited to discuss this further and looks forward to that discussion at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Donald W. Tuller'. The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Don Tuller
President
Connecticut Farm Bureau Association