CONNECTICUT MULCH DISTRIBUTORS, INC. CONNECTICUT FOREST PRODUCTS CONNECTICUT ORGANICS, LLC

A Division of Connecticut Mulch Distributors, INC. <u>WWW.CTMULCH.COM</u>

JANUARY 28, 2020

Transportation Committee Connecticut General Assembly Legislative Office Building, Room 2300 Hartford, CT 06106

Re: "NO to Draft Bill LCO #373. No to Tolls."

MR. Chairman and Members of the Transportation Committee:

Thank you for taking the time to listen to my concerns. Connecticut Mulch Distributors, Inc. is a second generation family owned business operating 3 separate companies for 44 year. We own and operate 38 trucks (mostly in Connecticut ONLY) We would like to start this letter and end this letter with one single point. Tolls will eventually put our company out of business.

We do 85% of our hauling within the state of Ct. This amounts to roughly 11,000 trips throughout the state annually. We do 80-140 deliveries and pickups daily in the state of all products. Our products are in extremely high demand in the "gold coast" of Ct. This means we travel into Stamford, Norwalk, Westport upwards of 30 -50 times per day. This route taken will be down 84 and back up 95 because of a.m. and p.m. traffic. When you add \$160 in tolls to a \$1600 load that is 10%. <u>No customer will be able to absorb 10%</u>. This now falls to the residents of Ct.

We are concerned about the affects the tolls will have on all of our businesses, our employees, and their families. We need to keep Connecticut a place where companies and residents can afford to work and grow. We estimate the total cost of tolls for our companies will be \$500,000 -

\$750-000 over 1 year. As I mentioned in the beginning of this letter, <u>Tolls will eventually put our</u> <u>company out of business.</u> Is that what Connecticut wants??

Respectfully,

Kurt Lindeland Vice President

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