



## Executive Board

Kevin Cwikla  
Heat & Frost Insulators #33

Dominick Cieri  
I.U.P.A.T District Council 11

Craig Metz  
Operating Engineers # 478

Mike Hassett  
Roofers #9

John Derosa  
Elevator Constructors # 91

## Executive Council

Chris Cozzi  
President, New Haven  
Building Trades

Joe Toner  
President, Hartford/New Britain  
Building Trades

Keith Brothers  
President, Norwich/New London  
Building Trades

Nate Brown  
President, Waterbury  
Building Trades

Peter Carroll  
President, Fairfield County  
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David A. Roche  
President

Peter Carroll  
Executive Vice-President

Keith Brothers  
Executive Secretary Treasurer



CONNECTICUT  
TAXPAYERS

Chairman Leone, Chairman Lemar, Ranking Member Martin, Ranking Member Devlin and members of the Transportation Committee, thank you for holding this hearing.

My name is David Roche. I'm the President of the Connecticut State Building and Construction Trades Council. I'm here in support of **LCO 373**, "An Act Concerning the Sustainability of Connecticut's Transportation Infrastructure".

First, I would like to start by referring to this transportation bill as a **jobs** bill. CT has been stagnant on job creation within the construction Trades. Currently, we double the [unemployment] national average and climbing. This bill will put workers on 12 Bridges creating over 20,000 jobs per year. This bill will fix the bridges that are in serious need of repair, which should be a safety concern for all of us.

In my positions as Business Manager of my local and as President of the CT State Building Trades Council, I have had the privilege of traveling around this country and seeing first-hand what a strong economy looks like. When I visit these thriving states, my counterparts there always credit their transportation systems. And those transportation systems always include tolls or user fees.

Why Tolls? Because tolls take the full burden off the local taxpayers. Tolls, in this case, will only be for large Commercial vehicles. These vehicles traveling through CT will help offset the cost for our residents. As you are aware, trucks do the most damage to our roads and should help pay the bill to repair them.



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Currently, due to the struggling construction job market, many of our members are traveling to New York, Massachusetts and Rhode Island to find work - and just for the record they pay tolls every day to get to these jobs and they also make higher wages, with some tradespeople earning as much as \$20.00 more an hour. I constantly hear that people are moving out of the State and there's going to be a shortage of workers in the future, but yet we're willing to let our workers travel out of CT for jobs. Common sense tells me that eventually these workers won't come back to CT.

Think about this - here are your two choices - stay in CT and hope some jobs start to come back and most likely collect unemployment - OR, drive anywhere between 2-4 hours around the northeast region each day for a reliable job that will pay higher wages then you would make working here in CT. And then, while you're working in one of those States that's investing in their economy and you're making good wages, you'll likely decide to move there and get rid of that long commute you make everyday. The choice is easy. This isn't a way-off assumption I'm making. This is a reality. I talk to our building trades members everyday and they are contemplating this decision.

[I'm a proud union leader who represents thousands of construction workers and thousands of construction families throughout this great state. When a school is in need of repair, when a courthouse needs a new roof, when our roads need to be paved, whenever you talk about "investing in infrastructure", you call us. And we answer the call. We go to work improving our state whether its 100 degrees outside or zero. We don't get paid on snow days or when there's a hurricane. The construction trades are the best trained, most reliable, most committed workforce in this state and in this country. And now,



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we need you! We need you to be courageous and bold and do what's right for the workers and families I sit here representing today.]

I implore you to support this Transportation/Jobs bill. Keep our residents safe when they are traveling our highways. And keep our workers here in CT to build the infrastructure needed to boost this great State's Economy.

Respectfully Submitted,

David A. Roche

President CT State Building and Construction Trades Council

Business Manager / F.S.T S.M.A.R.T. Local #40

(Sheet Metal, Air Rail and Transportation workers)