



SENATOR GEORGE S. LOGAN
SEVENTEENTH DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
300 CAPITOL AVENUE, SUITE 3400
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

CAPITOL: (860) 240-8800

TOLL FREE: (800) 842-1421

E-MAIL: George.Logan@cga.ct.gov

WEBSITE: www.SenatorGeorgeLogan.com

State of Connecticut
SENATE

ASSISTANT SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

RANKING MEMBER
HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

MEMBER
FINANCE, REVENUE & BONDING COMMITTEE
REGULATION REVIEW COMMITTEE

Testimony
Senator George S. Logan
Transportation Committee
NO to Draft Bill LCO #373. No to tolls.
January 31, 2020

Chair Leone, Chair Lemar, Vice Chair Bergstein, Vice Chair Simms, Ranking Member Martin, Ranking Member Devlin and distinguished members of the Transportation Committee:

I am Sen. George Logan, and I am testifying in opposition to Draft Bill LCO #373: An Act Concerning The Sustainability of Connecticut's Transportation Infrastructure.

Approval of Draft Bill LCO #373 will create an unelected "Connecticut Transportation Council" which will have the ability to set and raise toll rates without proper legislative oversight and eliminating the taxpayer's ability to stop them from raising tolling rates. Our state is in a financial crisis. We must resist this cycle of taxing more, spending more, being less responsible and less respectful of the Connecticut taxpayer. All of these proposed tolling bills have the same objective of the mileage tax bills that were proposed during past legislative sessions.

We have heard some lawmakers attempt to justify tolls as the only way to properly invest in roads, mass transit and rail. Tolls will not improve the commuter experience. Tolls will not make mass transit a top priority. Toll plans are largely incompatible with making significant improvements to mass transit in Connecticut. Furthermore, tolls will only increase the cost of living for Connecticut residents. For example, we are looking to drastically reduce the amount of trucks on our state roads with projects like the planned Naugatuck freight rail hub which will also lead to a reduction in the cost of goods for Connecticut consumers.

Connecticut Republicans have a plan for our long-term transportation needs. Our plan "FASTR-CT" will allow Connecticut to commit to making transportation a priority and create a predictable and sustainable funding stream to meet our transportation needs without tolls.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition of Draft Bill LCO #373. I urge the Transportation Committee to reconsider the ramifications of implementing tolling in Connecticut. Vote "no". The Connecticut taxpayer cannot afford to pay these tolls either directly via toll gantries or indirectly via increased costs of goods/services because of tolling. In addition, tolling in Connecticut will greatly contribute to the further erosion of Connecticut's fragile economy. Tolls will make our state less affordable for more people, less attractive for employers to stay in our state and a less desirable location for businesses to want to come to Connecticut.