

18 February 2020

Connecticut State Legislature Members  
Connecticut State Capitol  
210 Capitol Avenue  
Hartford, CT 06106

Vote Yes for LCO-373

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am writing in support of LCO-373, a bill which makes so much sense and with respect to which the various "arguments against" are specious or downright dishonest.

The money that would be raised under the bill would come ONLY from heavy trucks - not passenger cars, panel trucks, overnight delivery trucks, etc. It is truly a user fee - imposed only on those who use (and, frankly, abuse) our roads. It is NOT a tax in any sense of the word. Connecticut residents who do not drive heavy trucks would NOT be liable. Connecticut (and Vermont) are the only states in the Northeast - in fact, along the Eastern seaboard - that do NOT impose user fees on those who use our roads. Why are we subsidizing interests that use our highways but do not pay for the wear and tear which result from that use.

These monies would not be available for other uses, and they are desperately needed, as anyone who uses our highways and/or Metro-North New Haven line knows. Connecticut would be spared the cost of issuing and servicing debt, at a time when we are finally seeing the State's credit rating improve. Why go backwards?

This should be an easy vote. It is the right thing to do, Connecticut needs it, and those opposing it do not have Connecticut's best interests at heart. Do the right thing, do the courageous thing, do the smart thing. At this time in our country's history, such principled action is more important than ever.

Very truly yours,

  
Robert P. Blank  
Norwalk, Connecticut