

January 31, 2020

Legislative Transportation Committee

RE: **Draft Bill LCO #373**

I strongly oppose this and any other legislative effort to implement tolls on any type of vehicle.

The idea that we would even consider borrowing and spending valuable resources on a truck only toll system prior to knowing the outcome of the ongoing legal challenge to truck only tolls in Rhode Island is beyond belief.

The well documented flip-flopping by this Governor on truck only tolls is indicative of the desperation of his party to inflict another tax on the already overburdened Connecticut tax payer.

Neither the Governor nor his party make any effort to reduce the excessive road maintenance and construction costs. From data reported by the Federal Highway Administration, data supplied by Connecticut DOT, shows we spend \$602,861 per mile compared to the the national average of \$178,244. Prior to any consideration for more taxes, disguised as road user fees, a thorough public non-partisan review of all road maintenance and construction costs and how to reduce them must be completed. A mere 10% reduction in costs eliminates the need for tolls.

The recently passed Constitutional Transportation Fund Lockbox does not protect against diverting current funding, it only protects after the funds are deposited in the fund. It shows, when you consider the well documented multiple years of diverting designated tax revenue from the STF, why this Governor and his entrenched party leaders can not be trusted on tolling.

Prior to considering any type of tolls the proposal must also consider and include:

- Details on the numbers
- Details on which transportation projects will be funded
- Evidence to show how much revenue tolls will bring in
- Analysis of how toll avoidance would impact local roadways
- Explanation of, if, and how the Special Transportation Fund would remain in balance

I repeat no to this proposal and any other effort to implement tolls. Tolls will only serve to remind Connecticut residents daily of how the State does not care about them and increase the outflow of residents.

Sincerely

Steven P Anderson
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