

Written Testimony presented to the Transportation Committee

RE: LCO #373 "An Act Concerning the Sustainability of Connecticut's Transportation Infrastructure"

January 31, 2020

Good afternoon Senator Leone, Representative Lemar Senator Martin, Representative Devlin, and distinguished members of the Transportation Committee, My name is George Shaia , and I'm here today on behalf of myself, my family and the community in which I live. As a lifelong resident of the State of Connecticut who earns a living and supports a family working in Connecticut's Heavy Construction Industry, I am here today to respectfully submit testimony in **SUPPORT of LCO 373, *An Act Concerning the Sustainability of Connecticut's Transportation Infrastructure.***

We can all agree that an efficient, updated, reconstructed, and, most importantly, safe transportation infrastructure is the primary means for the State of Connecticut to attract new businesses. It is only through the attraction of new business and the retention of existing employers that we can help grow our State's economy and maintain our economic stability.. Investing in our State's highways and bridges is a necessary step in growing a future labor force, which is the linchpin to the State's fiscal stability. For years, we have seen how Connecticut's transportation funding was unable to support basic programs. Today, we are on the verge of a transportation crisis as we rely on unpredictable revenue streams to maintain our State's infrastructure. Our State's lack of solid and reliable transportation funding also prevents us from planning for much needed major investments in large scale infrastructure projects. *An Act Concerning the Sustainability of Connecticut's Transportation Infrastructure* is vehicle which will get Connecticut moving by improving our infrastructure while also creating jobs for the thousands of Connecticut residents like myself who make our living working in the heavy construction industry.

Now is the time for our State and the State Legislature to face the reality that we can no longer fund our transportation costs by only collecting revenues at the gas pump or through gross receipts taxes and that it is fair to ask those who traverse our highways to pay their fair share. Therefore, I am respectfully asking for your support for An Act Concerning the Sustainability of Connecticut's Transportation Infrastructure which is a 21st century solution that utilizes 21st century technology to help us rebuild an infrastructure that will allow us to boldly move Connecticut into the future.

Thank you for your consideration.