

**TO: General Assembly Government Administration and Elections
Committee**
RE: Proposed Bill No. 41
AN ACT CONCERNING CLEAN CONTRACTING STANDARDS
DATE: February 21, 2007

Senator Slossberg, Representative Caruso, and Members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee:

My name is _John J. Doody, PE/PLS, and I work for the State of Connecticut as a Transportation Principal Engineer in District 3 Surveys, CT Dept. of Transportation. My co-workers and I are responsible for surveying and mapping SW Connecticut highways and railroads, and we take pride in the work we do. I'm a taxpayer, too, and share the same values as the public I serve each and every day.

I want to thank Senator Donald Defronzo for introducing Senate Bill 41, and the Committee for raising this important legislation. Our members in CSEA/SEIU Local 2001 working for the State of Connecticut are committed to preventing contracting-out from reducing the quality of our public service or wasting taxpayer dollars, and this legislation will go a long way to protect the public interest.

Our members see ourselves as watchdogs, and believe we are guarding the public's trust. We have sounded warnings when the policy of outsourcing vital services has put taxpayer resources and critical public health, safety, and education functions at risk, such as researching and publishing data on the wasteful and expensive overuse of consulting engineers at the CT Dept. of Transportation. This report, entitled "Highway Robbery", shows the need for real reform is great; critical workforce shortages exist in numerous agencies impacting public health, safety, and education. Yet so many private consultants are being retained long past project schedules they have become an unaccountable "fourth branch" of government.

Our report shows:

- A savings of over \$7 million if state engineers are hired instead of costly consultants
- There were an average 387 consulting engineers working from October 2002 until June 30, 2004, with a variation of only 5%. Consultant utilization has been and will remain a constant costly expenditure until political decisions are removed and cost management is instituted.

This legislation is an opportunity to make real reforms in the state's contracting-out process because it would establish the protections our members have been advocating for:

- It will enable us to replace high-priced consultants with more cost-effective State public service workers;
- It will mandate that public projects impacting public safety be inspected by accountable State employees, not profit-motivated firms; and
- It will create greater accountability for private non-profit organizations seeking to contract with the State to provide taxpayer-subsidized services.

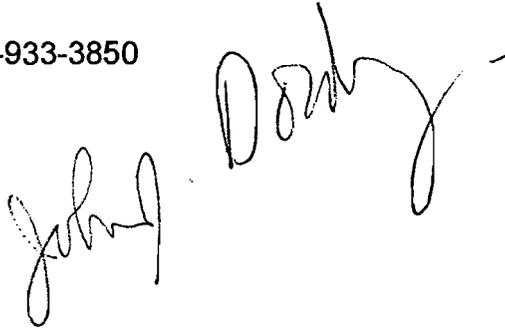
Thank-you for your time and for hearing my voice on this critical matter.

Name John J. Doody, PE & PLS

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A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "John J. Doody". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line extending from the end of the name.