

**Testimony of  
The Lumber Dealers Association of Connecticut  
Before the Legislature's Transportation Committee  
10:30 AM, Wednesday, February 25, 2015, Room 1E,  
Legislative Office Building, Hartford, Connecticut**

Good morning. My name is Marshall Collins. I am the Counsel for Government Relations for the Lumber Dealers' Association of Connecticut ("LDAC"). LDAC represents more than 100 independent lumber and building material dealers, manufacturers, wholesalers, distributors, and other associated small businesses in this state that employ 2,450 Connecticut residents and account for over \$1 billion in annual sales revenue.

**LDAC opposes:**

**HB 6818 AAC The Establishment Of Electronic Tolls At The State's Borders  
And**

**HB 6362 AAC A Deduction From The Personal Income Tax For Tolls Paid In Connecticut.**

**HB 6818:** LDAC members are small independent suppliers of material suppliers. The downturn in construction in housing has had a serious effect on its members. The imposition of tolls would further increase the already high cost of doing business in Connecticut and have a disproportionate effect on its members in the border communities. The imposition of tolls at the border is puts a disproportionate burden on struggling LDAC members, particularly in border communities. If the Legislature determines that a new tax is necessary to pay for the maintenance of our roads and bridges, it should be borne more equally by all Connecticut residents.

**HB 6362:** LDAC does not believe that the additional bureaucracy and costs of collecting the tolls, and then having to credit them to the payers, justifies the expense. It makes little sense to take money out of someone's pocket on a daily basis, which would happen to those who had to pay tolls, and then create a bureaucracy, which would at some point return some portion of the money. Why not leave the money in their pocket in the first place? Tolls are an additional expense. The bureaucracy necessary to administer the scheme proposed by HB 6362 is a further expense. At best the concept is inefficient. LDAC opposes HB 6362.

**Consequently, LDAC respectfully requests that HB 6818 and HB 6362 not be favorably reported.**

This concludes my testimony. Thank you for your consideration.