



LOCAL 478 • CONNECTICUT

INTERNATIONAL UNION OF OPERATING ENGINEERS

1965 Dixwell Avenue • Hamden, Connecticut 06514

Testimony of Nate Brown

Referral Manager and COPE Director IUOE Local 478

For the Public Health Committee

March 7, 2016

Good afternoon, Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter and distinguished members of the Public Health Committee. My name is Nate Brown and I am the Referral Manager and Political Director for the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 478, a labor organization that represents over 3,000 members and their families in Connecticut.

I am here this afternoon to testify in **favor** of SB 300, an Act Concerning New Britain Water Company Lands.

SB 300 is an important issue which could impact hundreds of Local 478's members and a major Connecticut employer, Tilcon Connecticut, Inc.

As you may know, Tilcon has recently proposed expanding their Plainville quarry operations. If approved, this expansion will not only allow the company to maintain their operations in this location, but will also extend the lifespan of the quarry, keeping much needed good paying jobs in central Connecticut. It goes without saying that these jobs are important, but they are particularly important to the 300 plus members of Local 478 who are employed by Tilcon.

In addition to keeping high quality jobs available for hundreds of Local 478's members Tilcon Connecticut has been a leading supplier of crushed stone, asphalt and concrete for almost a century here in CT and has played, and will continue to play, a vital role building and rebuilding the state's infrastructure. When examined as a whole, the proposal provides significant benefits to a number of communities and the people that live in them providing tremendous opportunities to work for a first in class organization. Tilcon Connecticut has always taken the steps to provide the utmost professional work environment. When examined as a whole, the legislation provides significant benefits to a number of communities, while building in a substantial public approval process. The fact that Tilcon is a major employer and contributor to central Connecticut's economy serves to reinforce the importance of this legislation and positive aspects of it for Connecticut and its communities. On behalf on the Operating Engineers and the members of Local 478 thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 300.